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Devonian Building, West Tower, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 0L2

September 1982

To: All School Principals

Re: CHALLENGE EVEREST '82 - A Current Events Study for Alberta Students

In recognition of the Canadian expedition attempting the ascent of Mount Everest over the next few weeks, Alberta Education has prepared a set of instructional ideas that may be of interest to members of your staff.

The materials tie in to the daily television coverage of the climb via the CTV network. They contain ideas for all subjects, and can be used at all grade levels.

A copy of the set of materials is enclosed. Interest in them will probably come mostly from social studies teachers. Therefore you might wish to provide them to social studies teachers, or to your social studies department head, for inital review and consideration. If additional copies are necessary for other staff members, the booklet of instructional ideas can be xeroxed easily. If copies of the wall chart or videotape material are required, order forms are included.

As you will note in the Canadian Mount Everest Society Report (copy enclosed) most members of the expedition are Albertans, from the Calgary-Banff areas. Your students will get a real thrill, I think, from following them in this momentous undertaking.

Sincerely,

Frank Crowther

F. A. Crowther
Associate Director of Curriculum
Social Studies

FAC:cm
Encl.

cc. School Superintendents
Regional Office Consultants
Social Studies Supervisors

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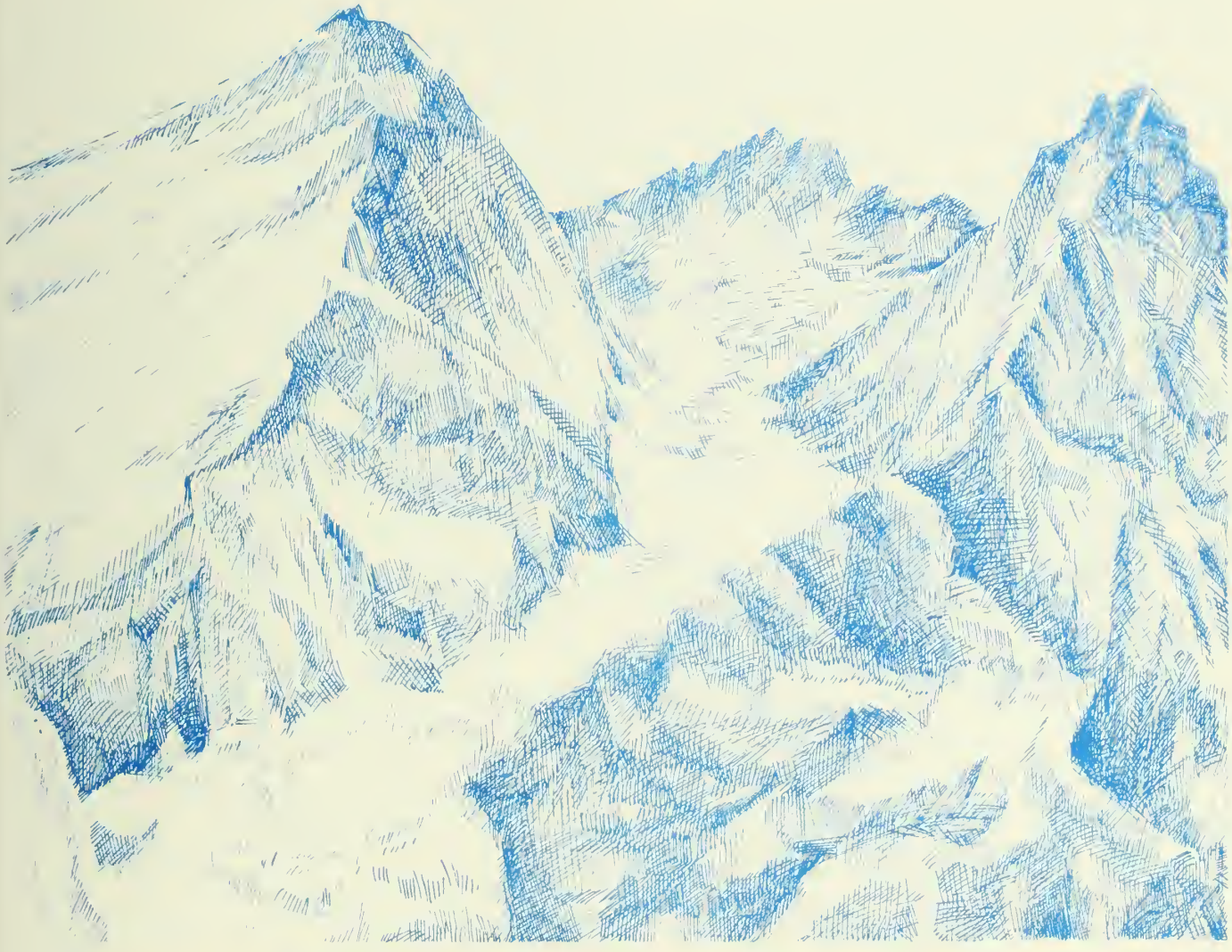
CHALLENGE EVEREST '82



A CURRENT EVENTS STUDY FOR ALBERTA STUDENTS

Curriculum

Alberta EDUCATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

If you have been looking for a way to get the new school year off to an enthusiastic start by tuning your students in to the Mount Everest Expedition, this set of instructional suggestions should make you smile.

Of course, the package took time and energy to put together. Alberta Education wishes to acknowledge the efforts and assistance of the following individuals and agencies.

- David Flower, of the Alberta Teachers' Association, for proposing the original idea and obtaining the commercially prepared materials;
- Barbara Esdale, of the Curriculum Branch of Alberta Education, for co-ordinating development, production and distribution of the handbook of instructional ideas;
- Johanne Faulkner, Peter Hawker, Bill French and Armin Wilcer, four Edmonton teachers, for designing the instructional ideas;
- Catherine Mosier and Diane Hawthorn, of the Curriculum Branch of Alberta Education, for secretarial services;
- Shih-Chien Chen, of the Curriculum Branch of Alberta Education, for art design;
- The Alberta Teachers' Association, for arranging printing services.

The theme of the Mount Everest Expedition Current Events Study is suited to all age levels, and all eight subject areas, in one way or another. I hope that the ideas that are assembled in the following pages provide a springboard to "CHALLENGE" you and your students to follow our 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition.

Frank Crowther
Associate Director of Curriculum
Social Studies

A NOTE FROM THE DEVELOPERS

As the members of the 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition team make their way up Mount Everest in September and October, they will be followed by extensive newspaper, radio and television coverage. It is this media coverage that provides the focal point of this Current Events Study.

The expedition can be treated in classrooms with as simple a project as a five minute daily discussion of the progress of the expedition, or as complex a treatment as research, report writing and presentations, with classroom, school, and community based activities.

The ideas that are outlined in this package are intended to provide a realistic approach to the integration of subject areas. Using a topical theme to accomplish this integration, this study has been set up in two parts:

1. CORE activities - a current events approach which follows the Expedition team up Mount Everest and keys the CHALLENGE activities;
2. CHALLENGE activities - integrated curriculum activities which students may wish to pursue.

Curriculum areas included in the CHALLENGE activities are social studies, mathematics, science, language arts, art, and physical education. The "social inquiry process" of the 1981 Alberta Social Studies Curriculum provides the framework for the study. It is recommended that each of the activities be completed during periods allotted to the appropriate subject area. Other activities, such as the "Alberta to Everest jog" can be planned for noon hours or after school. Alternatively, the whole project could be regarded as a "one quarter time" topic for social studies.

However you decide to proceed, we hope you and your students all have an interesting and enjoyable learning experience.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE	PAGE
PURPOSE	1
I IDENTIFY AND FOCUS ON THE ISSUE	2
II ESTABLISH RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND PROCEDURES	5
III GATHER AND ORGANIZE DATA PART I - PRIOR TO THE CLIMB	6
IV AND V ANALYZE, EVALUATE AND SYNTHESIZE DATA COLLECTED PRIOR TO THE CLIMB	20
III GATHER AND ORGANIZE DATA PART II - DURING THE CLIMB	23
IV AND V ANALYZE, EVALUATE AND SYNTHESIZE DATA COLLECTED DURING THE CLIMB	32
VI RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND EVALUATE THE STUDY	35
RESOURCES	36

PURPOSE

This current events study attempts to follow the climb of Mount Everest with the following objectives:

- to allow students to follow the Everest team knowledgeably
- to realize the tremendous effort and organization that precedes an expedition
- to realize that cooperation is essential to attain major objectives
- to feel the spirit of adventure with the Canadians on Everest
- to establish an identity with the climbers
- to realize that the attainment of goals is not always immediate or possible
- to allow and encourage students to pose questions which interest them about meeting the challenge.

I IDENTIFY AND FOCUS ON THE ISSUE

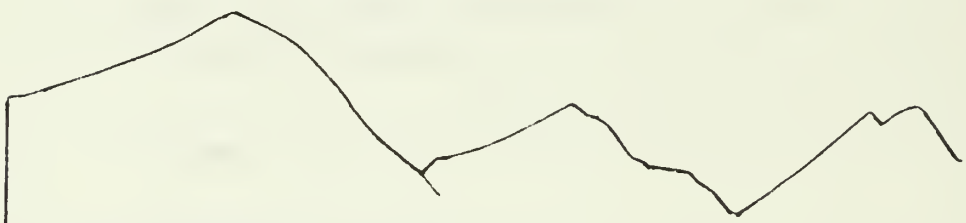
SUGGESTED ISSUE:

Should we support a group of Canadians to meet the challenge of Mount Everest?

Take an initial vote on this issue. This vote can be compared with a similar vote taken at the end of the unit.

A. Discuss the following with students:

1. What do mountains mean to you?



CHALLENGE 1

WHAT MOUNTAINS MEAN TO ME

Students may collect/draw pictures of mountains they are familiar with and/or express their thoughts about mountains in "mountain-shaped" poems.

2. Do you have to be a mountaineer to appreciate them?
(e.g. Some levels of involvement are:
Backpackers on trail, Wilderness background, Alpine meadow visitor, Mountaineer)

3. What do you think mountains mean to mountaineers? Page 3 lists some thoughts from three men who have attempted to meet the challenge of Everest. What do you think of their reasons for climbing?

IRVINE (With MALLORY last seen disappearing into the mists of Everest in 1924 higher than anyone had ever been before.)

BECAUSE IT IS THERE.

AMERICAN 1963 EVEREST EXPEDITION Like the exploration of space, of the poles, of the depths of the seas, the winning of Everest was going to be part of the continuing process of man's expansion of his frontiers. Every man knew why he was here:

HE HAD TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF HIS INNER SELF.

MacCallum, John D. Everest Diary. Chicago, Illinois: Follett Publishing Co., 1966. p. 11.

Suddenly, I began to nurture this idea. I wanted to climb until I either reach the top of the mountain, or I can go no further. I feel so passionately about this that I am prepared to endure anything, to risk much. I am willing to go further than ever I have before. I am resolved, for this idea, to stake everything I have.

Messner, Reinhold. Everest. London: Kaye & Ward, 1979. pp. 19 - 20.

B. 1. Discuss what a challenge is.

Explain to the students that they will be following the climb of Mount Everest by a Canadian team of mountaineers. How does this climb fit into their ideas of what a challenge is?

2. Since mountain climbing is such a challenge, why do people take the risk? Why has Mount Everest been such a special mountain to climb?

* * * * * * *

NOTE:

A Successful Climb is achieved when one pair of climbers reaches the summit; any more is a bonus. All personnel contribute to get that pair to the summit and everyone involved with the climb has been successful if this is accomplished.

* * * * * * *

C. Read a personal account of a climb from Canadian Mount Everest Society Report 1981/82 which will be found in this folder. See page 6, second column beginning "On April 25th ... " to end of pages "... of the future."

Discuss the effects (psychological and physical) of this climb on those men.

II ESTABLISH RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND PROCEDURES

A. 1. Suppose students were asked to be a member of a Mount Everest expedition. List the questions they would want answered before they were ready to join the climb. Their responses may be grouped around the following categories:

1. Geography of the area, especially Everest
2. Past expeditions on Everest
3. Knowledge of climbing (gear, ethics, etc.)
4. Physical fitness
5. Personnel (climbers, sherpas, etc.)
6. Organization for the climb (transportation, etc.)
7. Mental challenges - "I can do it"
8. Communications

2. Sample Questions:

Where is Mount Everest?
What does Everest look like?
Who will climb it?
What will they need to climb it?
(e.g. Food, Clothing, Equipment, Shelter)
How will they get the things needed there?
What problems will they face?
What route will they take?
Has the mountain ever been climbed? When?
Who has climbed the mountain before?
Why would they want to climb the mountain?
How will we be able to follow the climb?
(e.g. T.V. Coverage)
What will the weather be like?

III GATHER AND ORGANIZE DATA PART I — PRIOR TO THE CLIMB

* * * * * * *

NOTE:

Additional data will also be collected and organized during the climb itself. This section follows on page 23.

* * * * * * *

Each of the following eight activities can be done individually or in group situations.

A. Geography

1. Where is Everest?

   Locate Mount Everest on a world map.

   Determine the distance from where you live in Alberta to Nepal and then to the base of Everest, noting the best route and means of transportation.

CHALLENGE 2

JOG FROM ALBERTA TO KATHMANDU

Find the distance from your school to Kathmandu, Nepal, and then to the Base Camp of the Everest '82 Expedition. You may wish to consult a travel agent to find the best route.

Make a wall map of the route to chart the run. Everyone in your school could participate in the run to Kathmandu by organizing the distance with laps around the gym, the track, the neighbourhood, etc. (this could also be a fund raiser!) Notice the teamwork that is needed to plan and carry out a successful run.

CHALLENGE 3

ART DESIGN

In art class you could design special certificates to award to all students who participated in the run.

or

You may wish to design a T-shirt logo for your run or for the Everest climb.

2. Comparison of Alberta's Rocky Mountains to Nepal's Himalayas

   a. Compare our Rocky Mountains to the Himalayas. How high are they? How were they formed? What is the highest mountain in each? etc.

* * * * * * *

NOTE:

For further study of Alberta's Rockies students may be referred to Landscapes of Alberta, Books for Young Readers series, grades 4, 5, and 6, Alberta Education, pp. 7 - 35; Teacher's Guide suggests activities pp. 59 - 70.

* * * * * * *

CHALLENGE 4

CALCULATIONS

A climber is concerned with the height he has to climb between the base of the mountain and the summit. In your math class you could calculate this difference in height for Mount Everest.

b. Use topographic maps of the Alberta Rockies. Maps for Jasper and Banff National Parks are obtainable from Maps Data Purchase, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, The Government of Alberta, 2nd Floor North Tower, Petroleum Plaza, 9945 - 108 Street, EDMONTON, Alberta T5K 2G8.

* * * * * * *

NOTE:

Since they are well known, the following mountains are suggested: Mount Victoria, Mount Edith Cavell, Mount Assiniboine, Mount Robson. Mount Logan in the Yukon is the highest mountain in Canada.

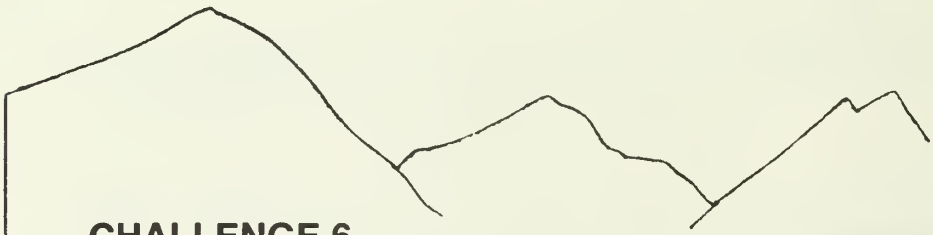
* * * * * * *

Find the spot height at the top of the mountain selected, and then select a spot by a river of low point at the base of the mountain. Find its height from the contour lines. From several mountains, the students will be able to assess the average height differential for the Alberta Rockies.

CHALLENGE 5

VEGETATION

Trace the vegetation zones the climbers will pass through from the leech-ridden trail outside Kathmandu to Everest '82 Base Camp. Compare this with the vegetation change from your school to the Rockies.



CHALLENGE 6

CLIMATE

Compare the climate of the Himalayas, taking note of the kind of conditions the Canadian climbers can expect between mid-August and early November, and the general climate of the Alberta Rockies.
Why are there two Himalayan climbing seasons?
How many Alberta Rocky Mountain climbing seasons are there?

B. Past Expeditions on Everest

1. Sample Research questions:

What past expeditions have there been? when? by whom? by what route? what happened?

How did Mount Everest get its name?

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NOTE:

Refer to the Canadian Mount Everest Society Report 1981/82, page 2, for additional information.

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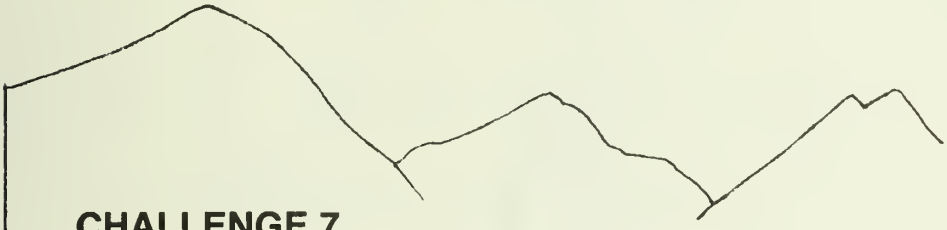


CHALLENGE 7

STORY TELLING

Hang a long piece of paper from a wire clothes hanger. On the hanger begin a mountain climbing story about a climb that might have occured on Mount Everest hundreds of years ago or far into the future. Don't finish the story. Stop at a breathtaking spot. Let someone else finish your cliff hanger.

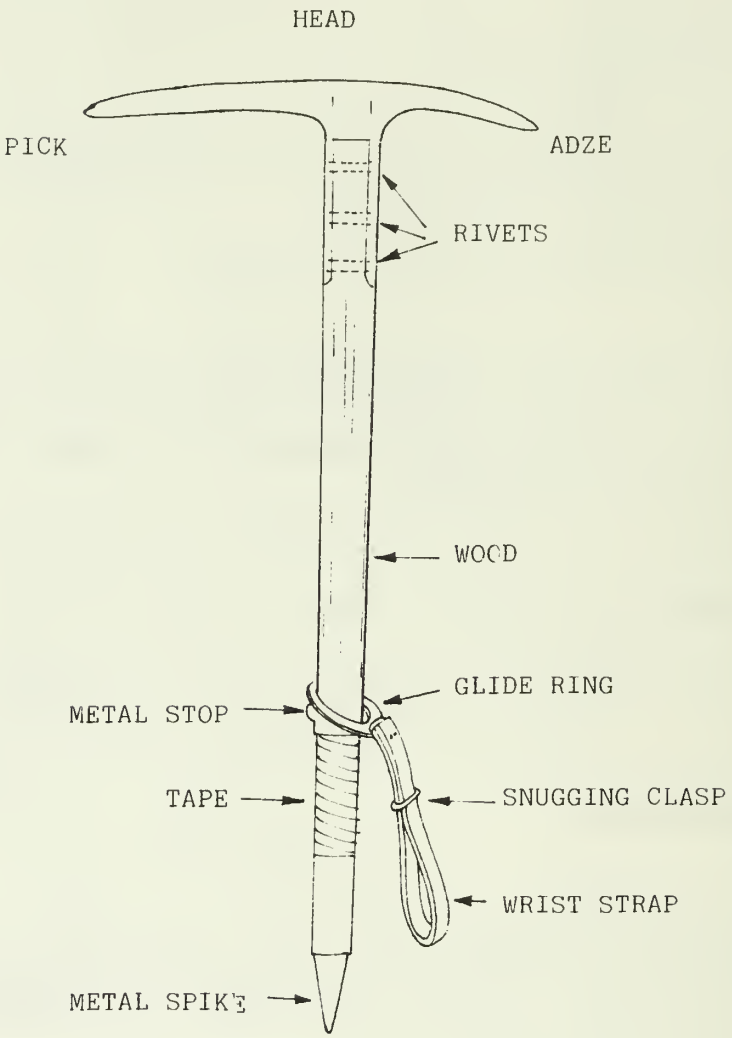
C. Knowledge of Climbing

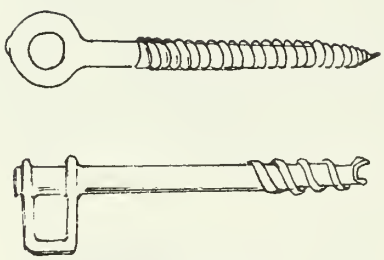
1. Make a chart of the equipment needed for the climb. Discuss what special features would make the item suitable for snow, ice, and rock climbing.

EQUIPMENT	DESCRIPTION	SPECIAL FEATURES FOR CLIMBING

Some illustrations follow on pages 10 and 11.

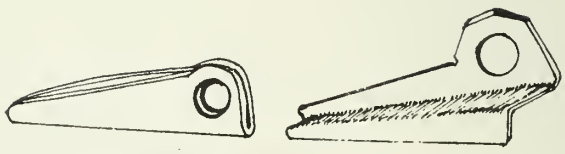
CLIMBING EQUIPMENT



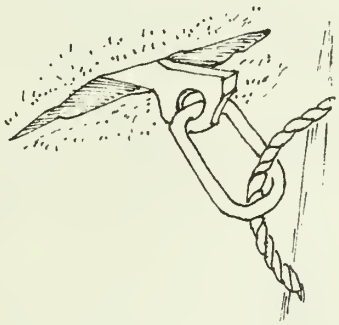


Ice screws may be driven into the ice to hold climbing ropes.

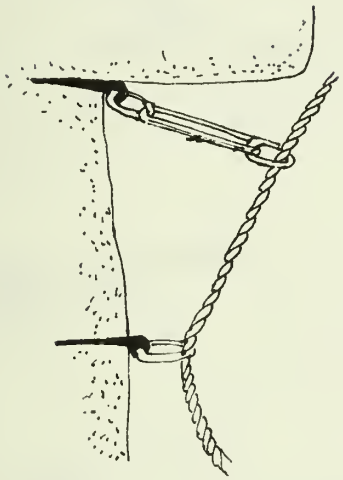
Pitons are driven into rocks to hold ropes.

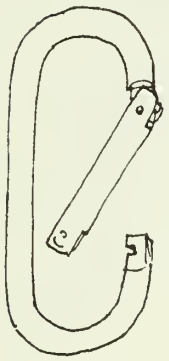


CLIMBING EQUIPMENT

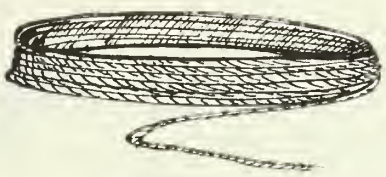


A carabiner is used to attach the rope to the piton or ice screw.





A climbing rope must be strong. It must be able to stand sharp jolts.



Crampons are attached to boots and can dig into icy surfaces.

2. Clothing

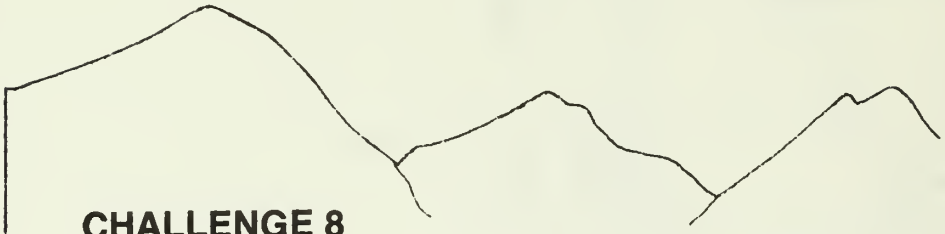
   Students are to gather information about the kinds of clothing needed at the different altitudes.

3. Shelter and Special Equipment

   Students are to research tents, sleeping bags, cooking equipment, oxygen, etc.

4. Climbing Techniques

   Students are to become familiar with some very basic climbing techniques. Refer to page 13 for examples.



CHALLENGE 8

CLIMBING TECHNIQUES

As you watch the climbers progress, look for examples of these climbing techniques. Keep a journal of the climbers' progress, and use this technical knowledge in your descriptions.

5. Climbing Ethics

   What safety rules do you think climbers must follow?

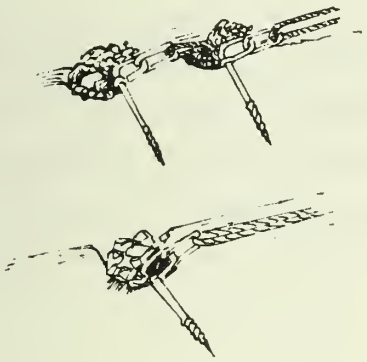
Ethics:

- Know your capabilities and do not plan to exceed them.
- Practice on the ground before you try anything dangerous.
- Know what you are doing - research and practice before going to the mountain.

Know about:

- Backpacking, outdoor safety, hypothermia, map-reading, weather reading and reports, what to do if you get lost or have an accident. These are all survival skills.

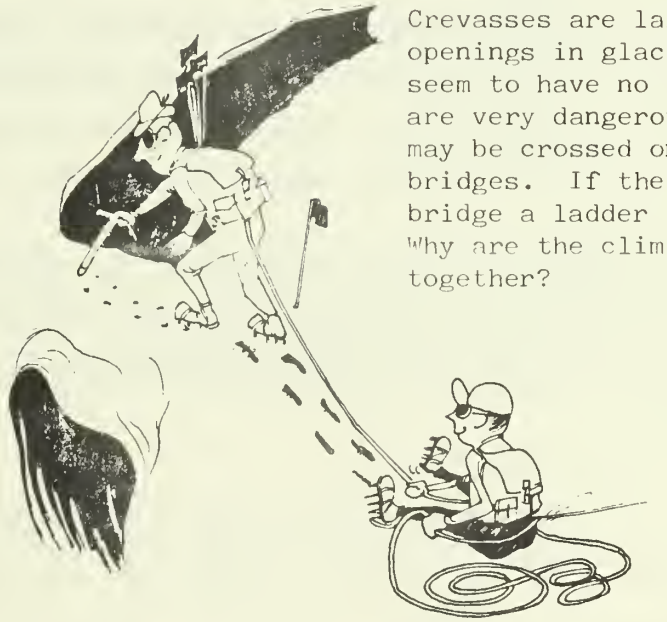
A mountaineer may have to cut steps in the ice.



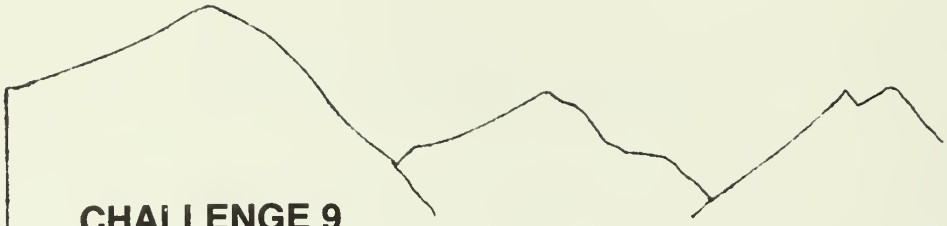
Then an ice screw can be inserted so others may use ropes to help them climb up.

Climbers may help each other using a belay. The climbers are roped together. One climber will anchor himself securely while the second climber climbs up. If the second climber falls, the first can use the rope to stop his fall.

Ice can be climbed using crampons and an ice axe. This is called clawing.



Crevasses are large openings in glaciers. They seem to have no bottom and are very dangerous. Some may be crossed on snow bridges. If there isn't a bridge a ladder is used. Why are the climbers roped together?



CHALLENGE 9

MOUNTAIN ETHICS

Write out a "mountain" code of ethics.
(Sample ideas: sense of responsibility, teamwork, safety decisions, route must be well planned and reported to authorities, risks affect others, do not endanger others or the expedition itself, respect for the mountain.)

D. Physical Fitness

1. Training

Suppose that you were the expedition leader. How would you train your climbers to be ready for the stress on the body, and for the change in altitude? Discuss. Running 8 km a day and climbing long flights of stairs help some keep in shape. For the climbers to become used to high altitudes, several practice climbs were held - in the Andes and the Himalayas.

2. Health

Have students research the following:
high altitude sickness, blood thickening due to decreased O_2, hemorrhoids, cuts, frost bite, hypothermia, fractures, how to lower a person down the mountain.

Can these medical problems be treated? How? Where is the nearest hospital if needed? How does a climber lose so much moisture if he only urinates once a day?

3. Diet

What solid, liquid foods are necessary to keep the climbers healthy? How will food be transported? How will it be cooked? How much is needed?

CHALLENGE 10

MOUNT EVEREST BREAKFAST

You could prepare a Mount Everest Breakfast or try freeze dried food.

- Notice the weight.
- What does it taste like?
- Could you eat it for three months?

E. Personnel

1. Qualities of Personnel

You are the Leader of the Everest Expedition.

a. What qualities would you look for in the people you are considering to invite as part of your team? How many people do you need? What jobs do they have to do?

b. You are a climber. What qualities are you looking for in a leader?

c. You are a SHERPA. What qualities are you looking for in the LEADER, and in the team members?

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NOTE:

A Sherpa is a Nepali who has a tradition of carrying the baggage of climbing roups. Some are hired to carry only to the Base Camp, while others are engaged for "high carries". Such has been the devotion, loyalty and bravery of these men, that many have been honoured by being allowed to be first to the summit of the mountain e.g. Tenzing on the summit of Everest, 1953.

* * * * * * *

d. After discussing the qualities of the people involved in the climbing team, read the moving account about John Lauchlan, one of Canada's leading mountaineers (originally a member of

the 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition who was killed by an avalanche in February, 1982). It can be found in the back inside cover of the Canadian Mount Everest Society Report 1981/82.

2. The Expedition Team

Refer to pages 10 - 13 in the Canadian Mount Everest Society Report 1981/82 for pictures and biographical information on the Everest Expedition Team.

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NOTE:

Each student should seek to establish identity with one of the climbers. Essentially, the students will be climbing every step of Everest with the climbers. They will experience through simulation activities and close observation of the ascent, the hardships, the dangers, and a sense of oneness with the climbers.

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CHALLENGE 11

LETTER

Write a letter to the climber YOU are following up Mount Everest.

CHALLENGE 12

BIGFOOT

Don't forget that silent visitor - the Abominable Snowman! Find out what you can about the "Bigfoot" and report back to your class. You could record this information in the shape of a big foot, and write some poems about what you think the "Bigfoot" does in the mountains.

F. Organization for the Climb

1. Can you imagine packing enough material to support a group of climbers and sherpas for two months? There are no shopping centres to run to for last minute items. Divide the students into small groups and ask them to compile a list of items that they would include on the shopping list. Don't forget that spices and seasonings help add variety.

CHALLENGE 13

SHOPPING LIST

Check the newspapers, etc. for information about the actual supplies taken to Everest and write up the "real" shopping list. Compare it to yours. Did you order enough supplies for the team?

2. What problems do you see in transporting and storing the food? One of the climbers, Peter Spear, has been gathering the food supplies since April. The food alone weighs 9 tonnes.

3. Shipping the supplies is another problem. How do you think this could be done? Luckily Air Canada has agreed to sponsor some of the climbers' transportation costs. They will send the goods by air freight to Delhi, India where it will be trucked to Kathmandu and stored for 3 months. Then the equipment will be moved the 240 km to the foot of Everest. There are no roads to Everest - only a long trail.

G. Mental Challenges

1. Discuss the phrase "You can do it". Do students believe they can do anything they set their mind to? How do they out-concentrate distractions? How does a goal help to keep the mind on task?

2. Climbing can offer some strenuous mental exercises as well as a physical workout. Read the following article to your students as an example of just what tricks your mind can play on you.

> MONTREAL - You're climbing Mount Everest and suddenly Glenn Miller and his orchestra appear and begin to play "In the mood". You go on. A little further up, you find a bunch of men wearing construction hats and operating bulldozers. So what do you do? You just clench your teeth and forge ahead, forgetting those diversions...
>
> Of course, big bands and road crews are not what people expect to find while climbing the world's highest mountain. Yet the leader of the first Canadian expedition to attempt Mount Everest, Bill March, 39, of Calgary, says his team is prepared for such hallucinations, which stem from a not uncommon reaction to high altitudes.
>
> Aside from the purely physical challenge of taking the last untried route to the top of the 29,000 foot peak, his climbers will have to overcome weird psychological reactions if they are to succeed in their adventure.
>
> Altitude 29028

How would you control your mind from wandering like this? Discuss. The key must be commitment.

CHALLENGE 14

CHOOSE YOUR EVEREST

Anything can be a mountain to climb. List some mountains that you must climb this year. Choose one of these goals and write out a method for reaching it. (Remember how the climbers trained for their "Everest.) These ideas could be written out and sealed in an envelope to be opened at the end of the school year. Remember to be realistic about your goal.

H. Communications

1. Team Communication

How will members of the team communicate during the climb?

What equipment will they use?

CHALLENGE 15

TAKE A PICTURE

Puzzle: How does the photographer get his equipment up the mountain? How does he position himself to get the pictures he wants? See if you can find out.

2. Expedition Communications

How will the outside world follow the Expedition Team?

What equipment will be used?

What media will be covering the event? (e.g. radio, T.V., newspapers, satellite coverage, photographs. etc.)

CHALLENGE 16

COME TO MOUNT EVEREST

You work for an advertising firm. Make a pamphlet or brochure that will sell someone on the idea of travelling to the Base Camp of Everest.

IV AND V ANALYZE, EVALUATE AND SYNTHESIZE DATA COLLECTED PRIOR TO THE CLIMB

A. The actual climb is really the last leg of a tremendous preparation effort.
Briefly tell how each of your research areas has helped the team get ready for the assault on Everest.

This information could now be placed on a bulletin board display (see page 22 for sample layout).
Encourage students to add to this display from news coverage and information collected during the climb.

B. Look at all the information gathered about the preparation for the climb. Summarize all of the things that the climbers have done to meet the challenge of Everest.
What types of problems did they run into? How did the expedition leader and expedition members overcome these problems?

C. 1. Examine various viewpoints which have been expressed about the climb by the climbers, the sherpas, photographers, doctors, reporters, politicians, etc. Do most people think that we should support the 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition?

Undertaking a climb such as this requires months of planning and is very expensive. Do most people think that the expedition is worthwhile? Why or why not?

2. Sponsors are very important in order for a project like this to occur. Who are the sponsors for this expedition? What responsibilities did they take and/or what services did they offer the team? Can you find out why they decided to sponsor this climb?

CHALLENGE 17

SPONSORS

You are a member of the Board of Directors of Air Canada. Write A speech in which you persuade your company to sponsor the 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition. Explain why you think it is important, as well as what the company can gain from its involvement.

CHALLENGE

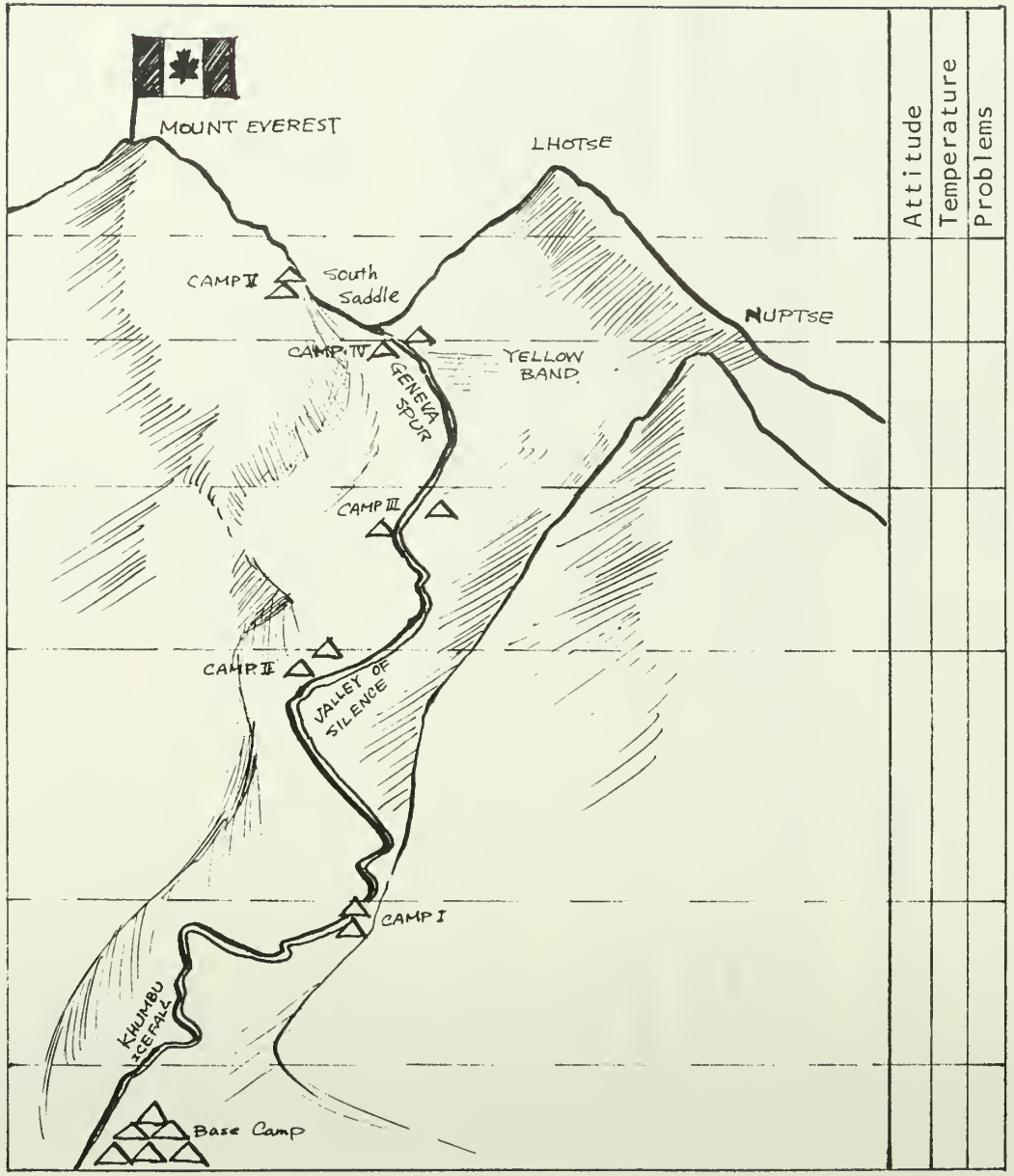
EVEREST '82

Geography

Past Expeditions

Knowledge of Climbing

Physical Fitness



Personnel

Organization

Mental Challenges

Communications

SAMPLE BULLETIN BOARD DISPLAY

III GATHER AND ORGANIZE DATA PART II — DURING THE CLIMB

A. 1. The following activity is a simulated Everest climb. The students will be climbing every step of Everest with the climbers. Through this simulation activity, it is hoped that the students will experience the hardships, the dangers, and a sense of oneness with the climbers. Students may wish to write in log books during the climb. These could be used to record observations and keep track of the particular climber whom they are following up Everest.

2. Page 22 illustrates a sample bulletin board display which can be "built" during this data collecting stage. Information from Part I - Data Gathered Prior to the Climb can be organized on both sides of the mountain. The mountain itself can be divided into climbing segments which correspond to the stages of the actual climb. Students should make paper climbers and tents. As the climb is reported students will be able to record the ascent and descent of the climb, and move the climbers and tents up and down the chart. It will be necessary that students become aware of the television coverage, and look for any printed material.

It is advisable to do each stage only as it occurs with the actual climb. Should the climb be called off at any point carry on to IV and V Analyze, Evaluate and Synthesize Data.

3. The climb will be videotaped and shown on television (CTV). Students should be expected to watch the progress of the climbers. In class they could give an oral report of the climb, and then record the progress in a log or journal of the climb. This would be an excellent opportunity to use some of their new knowledge of climbing in their reports.

B. Following is a series of activity steps and questions to guide the students' observation during the climb.

1. Base Camp

What is "Base Camp"? Where is it located? What is the altitude? the temperature? the date of arrival?
Who will go on to Camp I? Who will stay behind and manage the supply route?

Activity: On the bulletin board place tents at Base Camp.
Men templates can be placed onto the display showing where they are, and how many there are. Men should be identified and moveable. If room and scale permit, the special gear required at each level can be placed at the camp as well.

CHALLENGE 18

CHALLENGE CLIMB GAME

As you follow the progress of the climbers on television, you will become familiar with the adventure and danger of the climb. Keep a list of the setbacks and gains. Use this list as a starting point to plan a game based on the climb. Divide into groups and plan a "Snakes and Ladders" type game based on the Everest climb, e.g. avalanche: move back two steps; good snow: move ahead three steps; etc.

2. Base Camp to Camp I

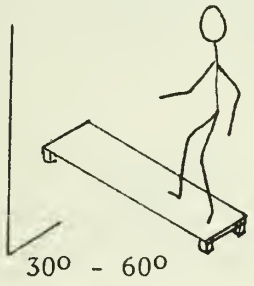
Where is the Khumbu Icefield? What is the distance to Camp I? What equipment is needed? What is the size of the ice cliffs? What are the dangers? What do you notice about the crevasses? Why are they always shifting? Why is this one of the most dangerous features of the climb?

Activity: Discuss the ways the climbers can move up the ice fields with packs on their backs. Look at possible alternatives to crossing crevasses and climbing up icefields.

CHALLENGE 19

THE "EVEREST BENCH"

Find out the incline of the icefield and re-enact the climb using a bench and a climber during a phys. ed. class.



Try to climb the "Everest Bench" in your stocking feet. What happens? What would make the ascent easier? (e.g. rubber soled shoes). Try using a rope to haul a climber up. What would you need for ice? (e.g. crampons, ice axe.)

3. Camp I

Which climbers arrived here? How long has it taken to get here? What is the altitude? What is the weather like? Who will go on from here? Who will go back? Why are they returning? What will they bring to Camp I? Did they set up tents? How does the wind affect the climbers' strength and balance?

Activity: Move the appropriate climbers and tents to Camp I on the bulletin board display.

4. Camp I to Camp II

What are the hazards on this portion of the climb? (e.g. hidden crevasses, obscured vision). How long will it take? Who is climbing here? What is the weather like?

CHALLENGE 20

CLIMBING CAN BE TIRING

This challenge will give you an understanding of some of the difficulties which will be encountered by climbers. Try role playing the following situation.

Two men and their guide were caught by darkness on a rock face. They had to stand on a two inch wide ledge. The ledge was only three feet long and hung over a 1000 feet direct drop. They kept awake by singing songs and reciting poems.

Try this yourself with two students blindfolded for twenty minutes, standing on a table top against a wall. Decide who is the guide responsible for the safety of the other two. The blindfolded students must grasp at the wall during the entire twenty minutes.

How did you cope with boredom and mental/physical fatigue?

5. Camp II

Who has arrived at this camp? What problems have they faced? The ice face has an angle of 30 degrees - where will they pitch their tents? What problems do the climbers face when they must sleep at that angle? What is the weather like? What altitude are they at?

Activity: Move the appropriate climbers and tents to Camp II on the bulletin board display.

CHALLENGE 21

BLOW ME DOWN

Obtain a copy of the Beaufort Scale from your science teacher. It describes the wind chill factors. Since the wind will play a very important part in the next section of the climb, you should be aware of the chart. It may be used to describe the weather in your log books.

6. Camp II to Camp III

This area is called the "Valley of Silence". Can you tell why? Who is making this ascent? Is anyone going back? Can you give a reason for this descent? How is the climb going? What is the weather like? How are the climbers physically? What is the air like?

Activity: In your log book, write about how the climbers work together. Is there a relay system being developed? Explain.

CHALLENGE 22

GUEST SPEAKER

See if there is a climber in your area who is willing to come to school to show climbing equipment or to discuss climbing experiences. If you live in Southern Alberta you may be able to invite a Tibetan to speak about his lifestyle and his country. If you live around Wainwright you may be able to invite a gurkha to speak about Nepal.

7. Camp III

Which climbers have arrived? What problems did they face? Are they able to establish the camp? What is the air like? Are there any climbers going back? What is the altitude? How long has it taken to get here? Do you see any groups of climbers saving energy for the top?

Activity: Move the appropriate climber and tents to Camp III on the bulletin board display.

CHALLENGE 23

LIFT THAT LOAD

Can you carry books weighing up to 10 kg? (Before doing this, demonstrate proper lifting techniques.) Practice carrying in the arms and on the back in a backpack. Practice going up stairs with it on. Wear heavy parkas while you are doing it to give the feel of what the climbers might be carrying.

8. Camp III to Camp IV

Who is going on to establish Camp IV? How difficult is the climb? What makes this the most difficult part of the climb? What is the weather like? What problems are the climbers facing? How long is it taking?

Activity: Research information about the "Yellow Band". What is it? Why is it significant?

9. Camp IV

Who established this camp? Are there special problems that they face? What is the altitude? What is the weather like? How long has it taken to get here? What supplies have been taken up? Are the climbers still physically strong? How are the climbers psychologically? Which sherpas are with the group at this point?

Activity: Move the appropriate climbers and tents to Camp IV on the bulletin board display.

Activity: Check what the climber whom you are following up Everest has been doing? What camp is he at? How is he helping the expedition team?

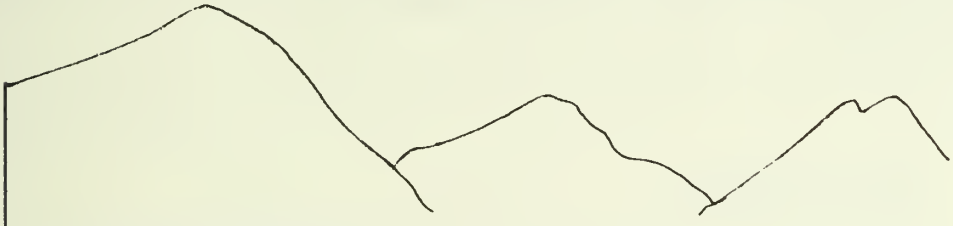
CHALLENGE 24

WHAT A SIGHT!

You wake up in your tent which is perched on the side of Mount Everest. Can you describe the scene you see as you step out? What adjectives have the reporters used in their newspaper/television reports?

10. Camp IV to Camp V

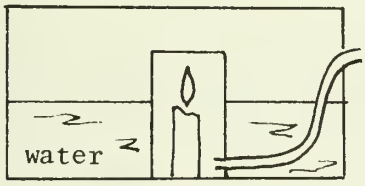
Which climbers are going on to Camp V? What are the climbing conditions like? (i.e. ice, rock) What is the weather like? What problems are the climbers facing? What is the air like?



CHALLENGE 25

I NEED AIR

Have your science teacher demonstrate the following activity to show that a flame burns less hot with less oxygen.



Place a lighted candle in a jar.
Have an oxygen inlet to the jar.
Place the jar in a container of water.
What happens to the flame? As the flame dies, open the airway and see what happens.

What effect will this drop in oxygen in the air have on the climbers' living and climbing conditions?

11. Camp V

Which climbers established this camp? What is the altitude? What is the weather like? What is the air like? Which climbers have gone back? Why did they go back? How are the climbers physically? Are they hopeful they can reach the summit? What

supplies have been brought up? How long has it taken to get here?

Activity: Move the appropriate climbers and tents to Camp V on the bulletin board display.

CHALLENGE 26

TENTING

Set up a two man tent and have the students experience what it is like to be in one. Imagine what it would be like when one is trying to get the maximum amount of sleep under minimum conditions (e.g. sleeping on a 70 degree slope with winds howling about you). Write about this in your log book.

12. Camp V to Summit

Who is able to make this ascent? Are any sherpas accompanying the team to the top? What is the weather like? What equipment did they take with them? What is the air like? Did the climbers need oxygen?

Who is successful in reaching the summit? Were they able to plant the Canadian flag? Is the Chinese Survey tripod still there? How long did it take them to get there? When did they reach the summit? How long has it taken them from the beginning of the climb?

Activity: Place a Canadian flag on the summit (if they actually do this) of your Mount Everest on the bulletin board display. Write about your feelings about the team's accomplishment. This could be a description, a poem, a drawing, etc.

13. Descent

What did the climbers leave on the top of the mountain? Are there any special difficulties with the descent? When do they get back to Base Camp? Why are the climbers eager to reach Base Camp?

14. Home

When did the climbers get back to Canada? How do they feel about the expedition now?

Activity: Write a thank you letter to the sponsors of the climb. Write a letter to the climber whom you followed up the mountain, asking his thoughts about the climb.

CHALLENGE 27

THE HOMECOMING

Watch for any picture and/or announcements of the climbers arriving home. Were any special receptions held for them? Put these articles in your log book.

IV AND V ANALYZE, EVALUATE AND SYNTHESIZE DATA COLLECTED DURING THE CLIMB

A. This expedition team spent many months preparing for this climb. How successful was the preparation when it came time to begin the ascent of the mountain? Was there anything else they could/should have done? Was there anything that they could have done without? What advice could they pass on to future expeditions?

B.

1. Many people have tried to meet the challenge of Everest. What challenges did our Canadian team meet? How did they cooperate as a team to meet those challenges? What role did the sherpas play? Write about what seemed the most exciting challenge to you.

CHALLENGE 28

AN EXPERIENCE NEVER TO FORGET

You are one of the climbers on the 1982 Canadian Expedition team. (Select the climber whom you have been following up Everest.) Prepare one entry in your log book for publication in a magazine. Remember, this is your personal account of the climb.

2. Now that the climb is over, it is time to think about how successful the expedition team was. Some say that the route is so difficult that the climbers have only a 50-50 chance of reaching the summit. If the team did not get any climbers to the summit, can the expedition still be called a success? Why or why not? How do the climbers themselves feel about this? Did they feel they wasted their time and energy? Explain. Discuss whether or not attaining your goal is important.

CHALLENGE 29

THE OUTCOME

You are a newsreporter who has travelled with the 1982 Canadian Expedition team. Write a summary of the climb for Canadians at home.

C.

1. Many people have written poems about Mount Everest. A good example of a narrative poem, "Everest Climbed" by Ian Serraillier, follows on page 34. It recounts the 1953 ascent of Everest by Edmund Hillary and his Sherpa, Tenzing Norquay.

   Students could write their own poetic account of this 1982 climb.

2. Reinhold Messner climbed Everest solo in 1980. After studying this 1982 group effort, students may enjoy reading about Messner's solo climb for it provides many contrasts.

   (Messner, Reihnold. "At My Limit", National Geographic, October 1981, Volume 160, No. 4, page 352.)

   and/or

   Secondary students may enjoy viewing the Pyramid film "Solo" which is a powerful visual essay communicating the tension, anxiety and exhilaration of a mountain climber on a "solo" climb.

   (Solo, 15 minute, colour. Pyramid Films [distributed by International Telefilm Enterprises, 47 Densley Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6M 5A8] 1971; available at all regional film libraries, and from many local school film libraries.)

Everest Climbed

Ian Serraillier

Seven times, teams had tried and failed to reach the top of Mount Everest. Thirteen men had died. Now, in a small yellow tent on an icy ridge 8500 m (27625 feet) above sea level, two climbers waited for the first light of dawn. Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing "Tiger" Norquay, a Sherpa tribesman from Nepal, would make the eighth try for the summit. If they succeeded, they would be the first to climb the highest mountain in the world.

The sun went down, from peak to peak
The long purple shadows creeping.
Tired and weak,
They yawned and settled down to sleeping—
Hillary bunched in his narrow place,
Tenzing stretched on the brink of space.
While the rude wind roared them a lullaby
To a tearing tune,
Hillary, sleepless, braced for each blast,
Clung to the walls and anchored them fast
And none too soon,
Till the wind sank down and the silent sky
Was lit with the stars and the moon.

At four in the morning he woke. His feet
And legs were numb to the knees and freezing.
But the peaks were aglow in the early light
And the frost was easing.
His boots were white and stiff from the weather,
So he cooked them over the primus flame
Till up to his nostrils fiercely came
The stench of burning leather.
When they'd carefully checked the oxygen gauges
And fixed their boots and loaded backs,
Away they stepped in easy stages,
Each in turn kicking the tracks.

They toiled to the foot of the Southern Peak
Where the slope was steep with snow half-stuck—
And slippery, treacherous indeed
When Hillary's turn it was to lead.
The first step firm, the second crumbled
And down in a shower of white he tumbled.
Tenzing was ready—on the lightning slope
He halted him with axe and rope.
Thus once before in the icefall snow
The Tiger had held him, bruised and numb,
On the icy brink of Kingdom Come
Whose chasm yawned below.

Undaunted still, with desperate skill,
Cautious as blind men crossing a street
They crept four hundred faltering feet.
And they'd reached and passed the Southern Peak
When Hillary's rope began to drag
And Tenzing staggered and fell in his track,
Tottered and swayed and gasped for breath—
The face in the icicle-crusted mask
Was pale as death.
But Hillary found where the strength was going—
The oxygen tube was jammed with ice.
With his glove he knocked it free—in a trice
The life was flowing.

Their steps were weary, keen was the wind,
Fast vanishing their oxygen fuel,
And the summit ridge was fanged and cruel—
Fanged and cruel, bitter and bare.
And now with a sickening shock
They saw before them a towering wall
Of smooth and holdless rock.
O ghastly fear—with the goal so near
To find the way was blocked!
On one side darkly the mountain dropped,
On the other two plunging miles of peak
Shot from the dizzy skyline down
In a silver streak.

"No hope of turning the bluff to the west,"
Said Hillary. "What's that I see to the east?
A worm-wide crack between cornice and rock—
Will it hold? I can try it at least."

He called to Tenzing, "Draw in the slack!"
Then levered himself right into the crack
And, kicking his spikes in the frozen crust,
Wriggled up with his back.
With arms and feet and shoulders he fought,
Inch by sweating inch, then caught
At the crest and grabbed for the light of day.
There was time, as he struggled for breath, to pray
For all the might that a man could wish—
Then he heaved at the rope till over the lip
Brave Tenzing, hauled from the deep, fell flop
Like a monstrous gaping fish.

Was the summit theirs?—they puffed and panted—
No, for the ridge still upward pointed.
On they plodded, Martian-weird
With pouting mask and icicle beard
That cracked and tinkled, broke and rattled,
As on with pounding hearts they battled,
On to the summit—
Till at last the ridge began to drop.
Two swings, two whacks of Hillary's axe,
And they stood on top.

From the longer poem, "Everest Climbed",
by Ian Serraillier

At 11:30 on the morning of May 29, 1953, Hillary and Tenzing stood upon a narrow crest of snow on the summit of Mount Everest. In that moment they won immortal fame. To most people, their achievement was the end of a story which began with the first attempt thirty years earlier. But for mountain climbers, it was the inspiration for many more "firsts" in climbing history.

© 1955 IAN SERRAILLIER and THE WINDMILL BOOK OF BALLADS, Heinemann Educational Books, London

VI RESOLVE THE ISSUE AND EVALUATE THE STUDY

A. At the beginning of this study of the Everest climb, students were asked

Should we support a group of Canadians to meet the challenge of Mount Everest?

Whatever the issue your students developed, have them refocus on it at this point. A follow-up vote could be taken and compared with the initial vote.

CHALLENGE 30

MOUNTAINS, MOUNTAINS

What is your attitude now towards mountains? Mountain climbing? Mountain Climbers? Team efforts? Write a personal account comparing what you knew and how you felt about these topics before your study of this expedition and now that the expedition is over.

B. Discuss the many types of support that were needed for this climb e.g. financial, moral, etc. Students may wish to write letters of support to the climbers (whether they made the summit or not) acknowledging their efforts and/or a class letter thanking one of the sponsors for his support.

C. Think of other people who have faced both physical and mental challenges. How did they find the courage to face their "Everest"? What qualities do you admire in the climbers and in these other examples?

D. Discuss what impact this Canadian climb may have on future expeditions. Since the 1982 climb has now taken its place in history, how do you think it will be regarded in fifty years time?

RESOURCES

The following resource list is by no means complete. It is intended, however, to serve as a guide to some existing materials related to this study. It is recommended that students be encouraged to watch for stories in local newspaper, and to view televised reports on the event as it happens.

A. ADDITIONAL STUDENT AND/OR TEACHER RESOURCES

Amatt, John. "Muztagh ATA - A Chinese Peak, A Canadian Challenge" en Route, Vol. 10, No. 2, February 1982.

Armstrong, Sally. "Everest: Month 2 - Keep On Climbing" Canadian Living, Vol. 7, No. 6, June 1982, p. 57.

Armstrong, Sally. "What is Your Everest?" Canadian Living, Vol. 7, No. 5, May 1982, p. 88.

Band, George. Road of Rakaposhi. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1953.

Benruehka, Dr. Stephen and Patrick Morrow. "Steppingstone to Everest" Equinox, Vol. 1, No. 1, January 1982.

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Donoughue, Carol (ed.). "Everest" London: Jackdaw Publications Ltd., 1975.

First Over Everest - The Houston Mount Everest Expedition. London: The Bodley Head Limited, 1933.

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Hillary, Louise. High Time. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1973.

Hopkins, Thomas. "Toward The Quintessential Climb" Maclean's, July 26, 1982, pp. 41 - 42.

Hunt, John. The Ascent of Everest. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1953.

MacCallum, John D. (Diary of Lute Jerstad) Everest Diary. Chicago, Illinois: Follett Publishing Co., 1966.

Marshall, Howard. Men Against Everest. London: Country Life Limited, 1954, p. 12.

Messner, Reinhold. "At My Limit" National Geographic, Vol. 160, No. 4, October 1981, p. 352.

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Messner, Reinhold. Everest: Expedition to the Ultimate. New York: Oxford University Press, 1979.

"Nepal" Mountain Travel Inc., 1980.

Newby, Eric. Great Ascents. North Vancouver: David & Charles, Ltd., 1977.

Noyce, Wilfrid. South Col. London: Wm. Heinemann, Ltd., 1955.

Roper and Steck (ed.) 50 Classic Climbs of North America. San Francisco, California: Sierra Club Books, 1979.

Sherman, Paddy. Cloud Walkers (6 Canadian Climbs). Toronto: MacMillan Publishers, 1965.

Underhill, Miriam. Give Me the Hills. New York: Viking Press Ltd., 1956.

Wilson, Ken (ed.) The Games Climbers Play. San Francisco, California: Sierra Club Books, 1978.

B. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

1. Edmonton Journal:

"Canadian Group Ready for Climb" July 29, 1982, p. A3

"Light-weight TV Gear on Everest Expedition" July 3, 1982, p. A3

"Meeting the Challenge of Infamous Everest" June 27, 1982, p. D10
Also-"Gourmet Cooking Will Boost Morale"
"'The Trip of a Lifetime' Goal of Hardy Trekkers"
"Supplying Climbers a Herculean Task"

"Everest Climb is Looking Up for Canadians" May 19, 1982, p. C14

"Canadians Gearing for Everest Assault" May 2, 1982, p. A1

"Canadians Tackle Forbidding Mt. Everest" May 2, 1982, p. G10

"Everest Men Go First Class" April 26, 1982, p. F10

"Canadian Climbers Run Into a Roadblock" April 19, 1982

"TV Coverage of Everest Climb" February 17, 1982, p. H13

2. Other Sources:

"Canadians Expect to Beat Everest" The Globe and Mail, June 23, 1982

"Top of World" St. Albert Gazette, Vol. 23, No. 25, May 19, 1982, p.A1

"Cold Tests for Everest Climb - Because It's T-t-t-here!" Toronto Sun, April 16, 1982

"Everest Climbers Give Equipment Freeze Test in Refrigerated Truck" Toronto Star, April 7, 1982

"Night's Sleep in Icebox" Toronto Star, April 7, 1982

"Everest-Like Deep-Freeze Beats Star Man" Toronto Star, April 6, 1982 p. A8

"Calgary Teacher Prepares for Everest" The ATA News, Vol. 16, No. 14, April 5, 1982, p. 3

"Life Itself on Line in Game Bid to Beat Everest" The Globe and Mail, April 5, 1982, p. S7

"Finding Yourself on Mountain Top" Edmonton Sun, March 23, 1982

C. BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS Grades 4, 5, and 6

1. Landscapes of Alberta - Lynda Hoffman & Pat Redhead

This resource offers information about Alberta landscapes, should students wish to compare our mountains with the Himalayas.

"The Mountains" pp. 12 - 35

Teacher's Resource - Relating the Books for Young Readers to the Social Studies Curriculum, pp. 59 - 70

2. The Nature of Things - compiled by Wendy Spratt

"Names of Places: Part One" - Ron Barnett & Pat Morgan, pp. 72 - 79

Teacher's Resource, pp. 19 - 20

This information on how some areas in Alberta have been named would make a nice comparison with some of the areas around the climb area, e.g., Mount Everest itself.

"Mountain Views"- James S. Tippett, p. 59, Teacher's Resource, pp. 26 - 27
"A Game"- Paul Dearden, p. 71, Teacher's Resource, pp. 26 - 27

3. Souvenirs - compiled by Adrienne Coull

"The Pioneer"- Arthur Guiterman, p. 36

D. WESTERN CANADIAN LITERATURE FOR YOUTH Grades 7, 8, 9, and 10, 11, 12

1. Panorama

"Sunrise on Lake Louise"- Ella Elizabeth Clark, p. 143. Teacher's Resource Book (TRB), pp. 364 - 365

"Lake Minnewanka"- Ella Elizabeth Clark, p. 114. TRB pp. 365 - 366

"At Crow's Nest Pass"- E. Pauline Johnson, p. 145. TRB p. 366

"A Mountain Journey"- George Bowering, p. 155. TRB p. 367

"A Trip to Mt. Edith Cavell"- H. E. Bulyea, p. 156. TRB p. 368

2. In Jeopardy

"Avalanche"- Robert E. Gard, p. 107. TRB p. 21

"Disaster at Avalanche Mountain"- Cecil Clark, p. 112. TRB p. 22

"The Agony of Mrs. Stone"- Jon Whyte, p. 122. TRB pp. 22 - 24

3. Who Owns The Earth?

"Description of the Cave at Banff, 1929"- David Drummond Galletley, p. 213. TRB p. 491

4. Diversions

"How We Climbed Cascade"- Ralph Connor, p. 221. TRB pp. 252 - 254

5. Tales: Tall and True

"The Creation of the Northern Rocky Mountains"- Ella Elizabeth Clark, p. 126.

6. Western Moods

"The Mountains"- Barny Broadfoot, p. 206. TRB p. 161

"An Uncanny Mood - The Beckoning Lights"- Monica Hughes, p. 227. TRB pp. 164 - 167

E. ADDITIONAL LITERATURE

Cline, J. et al. New Voices 4 in Literature, Language, and Composition. Ginn & Company, 1981. (English 13)

"David"- Earle Birney, p. 44

Graves, Clayton and Christine McClymont. Contexts Anthology One. Nelson Canada Ltd., 1981. (Junior High)

"My Mountain Friends" - Jean George, p. 15

"No Place To Go But Up" - Christine Griffin, p. 74

"Everest Climbed" - Ian Serrailier, p. 111

Ullman, James R. A Banner in the Sky. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1966. (Upper Elementary/Junior High)

One of the most exciting adventure stories in Canada's history is about to unfold... and your students will want to be a part of it!

THE CANADIAN MOUNT EVEREST EXPEDITION 1982

Starting this summer, a team of 15 young Canadian mountaineers begin what will be the greatest adventure of their lives: this first all-Canadian team will attempt to reach the top of the world—the peak of Mount Everest—an achievement known only to approximately 112 other people in the world. They will try to achieve this daring feat via a route never before attempted. In the planning stages for over three years, their climb in September will receive unprecedented radio and television coverage via an ultra-sophisticated 3-satellite communications system orbiting 40,000 kilometres above the equator. Standard Broadcasting and the CTV network will be broadcasting on the spot progress reports daily from Nepal. **Your students will be listening and watching with fascination as this exciting—and dangerous—story unfolds!** Reader's Digest, as part of its role in Canadian publishing, has been commissioned to create and produce the Official Canadian Everest Expedition 1982 Wall Poster Chart so that Canadians of all ages can follow, and be a part of, this event.

Everest
Introduction to the Canadian Everest Expedition 1982: a description of the hazardous route across the icefields towards the summit; where each successive camp will be set up; what the research team hopes to learn; and the equipment being used and the support required to enable the climbers to reach the summit and plant the Canadian flag.

Expedition Log
Here's where your students chart the progress of the expedition. Spaces are allotted so that dates and notes can be filled in as the team reaches each progressive camp site, for later discussion.

The Story of the Mountain
Interesting footnotes on the fascination this mountain has held for mountaineers throughout the ages, its first conquerers and the odd creature that is said to stalk it, all add to this mountain's lore.

The Long Walk
This section describes the 240 kilometres of the tortuous route that must be trekked to the base of the mountain itself from Katmandu, Nepal, with 600 Nepalese porters carrying 20 tons of equipment.

The Climbers
The team's success depends on the skill and courage of these top-flight Canadian mountaineers.

The Support Staff
Although all are experienced climbers, these support staff members will oversee everything from medical facilities to camp organization.

The Sherpas
Since the first conquest of Everest in 1953, Sherpa guides have played a key role in almost every major Everest expedition. Why?

The Satellite System
Here's how Teleglobe Canada will bring daily TV and radio reports from Nepal to Canada via an intricate system of sophisticated satellites.

The Equipment
From tents to nutritious food, from special ladders to specially designed climbing suits, from oxygen masks to special boots, 20 tons of equipment must be hauled to the base camp. This section explains exactly what.

ACTUAL SIZE: Big 28" x 40" (71.2 cm x 101.6 cm) wall poster chart in full color (Delivered folded in a handy 6½" x 10" (16.5 cm x 25.4 cm) colorful cover)

How your students can participate

We suggest that each student be provided with a poster and that each class discuss the expedition before the summer break. The poster is then taken home so that the student can follow and record the summer progress of the climb. In September, the charts would be brought back to school and the entire class can follow and record the exciting final days as the team reaches the summit, by following daily radio and TV reports.

How students can benefit from this chart

By stimulating lively teacher/student discussions on the geography of the area, the climbers' equipment, the cause and effects of oxygen in high altitudes, the nature, functions and possibilities of satellites, and a myriad of other topics. In addition, students in every grade will learn the lessons of fitness and courage, willingness and determination to accept challenges despite adversity.

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"EVEREST"

A videotape available from ACCESS

(see attached card for ordering information)

This 24 minute color videotape produced by Air Canada, provides a comprehensive look at Everest and the Canadian Expedition. It presents the geography and climate of Nepal, gives a brief history of previous Everest attempts, and describes the goals and preparations involved in the Canadian expedition. The videotape is very inspiring and may be a useful tool in introducing or summarizing the unit.

NOTE: The videotape may be stopped at any time to discuss and list or chart areas of particular interest. Have chart paper and felt pens handy. The following is an outline of various topics contained in the videotape that your students may wish to discuss:

I Climate

- A. cold and snow
- B. wind (eg. Beaufort scale, wind chill)

II Geography

- A. map of Nepal and India

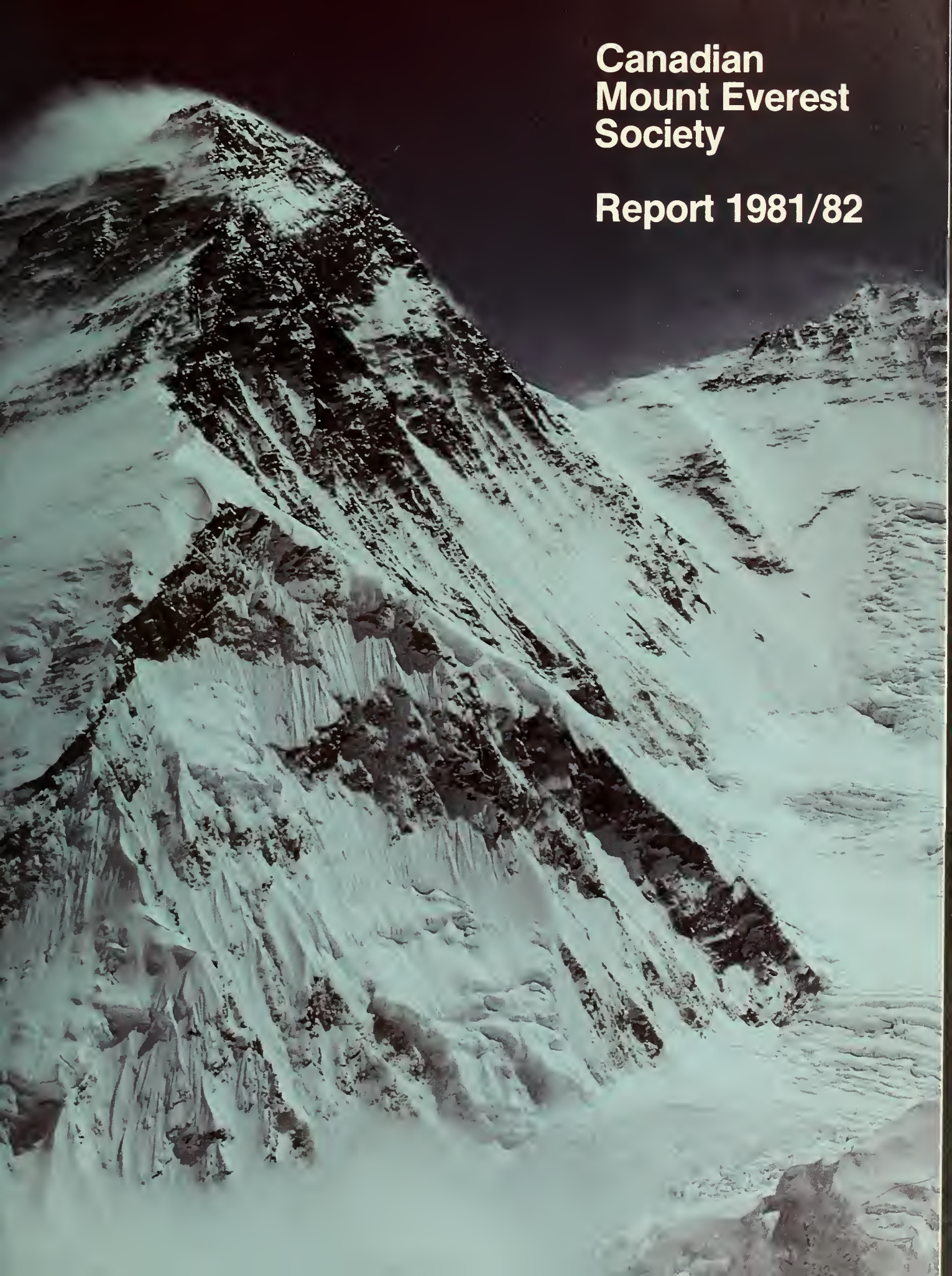
III History

- A. Tibet
- B. Nepal

This section outlines past expeditions and difficulties.

IV The Canadian Expedition

- A. goals
- B. cost
- C. hazards (eg. cold, lack of oxygen, crevasses, rotten ice, shifting ice, death zone)
- D. clothing (eg. warmth, ease of motion)
- E. equipment
  1. climbing equipment (eg. crampons, ice axe, ice screw (woah), helmet, ropes, aluminum ice ladders)
  2. tents
  3. broadcast equipment
     a. problems - altitude, power, cold, weight
     b. daily television reports - satellites
  4. food (eg. amount, type)
- F. transport of supplies and importance of cooperation
- G. final goals and ambitions



Canadian Mount Everest Society

Report 1981/82

The Canadian Mount Everest Society is registered with Revenue Canada as a Canadian Amateur Athletic Association — Registration Number 0495952-80-24 — within the meaning of the Income Tax Act.

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Contents

The Objective	2
The Preparations	3
The Training Program	4
Gangapurna	6
Muztagata	7
Nuptse	8
Annapurna IV	9
Everest Expedition Team	10
Biographical Information	11
List of Supporters	14
Patron	16

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The Objective

Mount Everest (left), Lhotse and Nuptse (right) with the Western Cwm in front centre.

Mount Everest, whose Tibetan name Chomo Lungma means 'Goddess Mother of the Land' and whose Nepalese name is Sagarmatha, is universally recognized as the highest mountain in the world.

Lying in the Khumbu Himal, on the border between the Kingdom of Nepal to the south and Chinese Tibet to the north, the mountain rises to a height of 29,028 feet/8,848 metres, some 775 feet/236 metres higher than the summit of K2, the second highest peak in nearby Pakistan. Since its discovery during the Survey of India in 1849 (when it was named after the former Surveyor General, Sir George Everest), it has been the objective of mountaineers of many nationalities to climb to this highest point on the earth.

Although most Canadians are familiar with the successful first ascent of the mountain by Hillary and Tenzing in 1953, it is a little-known fact that six years earlier, in 1947, a Canadian-born mountaineer had made a bold solo attempt to climb Mount Everest from the north slope. Earl Denman's expedition was organized on a shoestring and was unsanctioned by Tibet. Consequently, his daring effort failed well below the summit at approximately 23,000 feet/7,100 metres.

Some thirty years later, a second Canadian set foot on Everest. Born in the United States, but living in British Columbia, Art Twomey joined an expedition of New Zealanders in a lightweight attempt on the mountain. Their objective was to climb the peak without the use of local Sherpa porters and without breathing supplementary oxygen. This task, however, became too great for the small party and they were stopped by dangerous ice conditions and illness at the South Col (26,200 feet/7,986 metres). Several of the climbers were, in fact, suffering from broken ribs caused by coughing hard in the thin air.

In 1981, another resident of British Columbia attempted Everest, this time joining an American Medical Research Expedition to the world's highest peak. After performing strongly on the mountain, however, Dave Jones was defeated by the elements and illness at the South Col, although he did have the consolation of climbing higher on Everest than any Canadian before him.

In the fall of 1982, The 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition sponsored by Air Canada will attempt to climb to the summit of Mount Everest, thereby completing the task initiated by Denman and continued by Twomey and Jones — that of putting the first Canadian on the highest point of the earth. This will be the first all-Canadian expedition to the mountain and represents the last chance for Canadians to climb the Nepalese side of Everest for many years, since His Majesty's Government of Nepal has 'booked' the peak for other nationalities throughout the 80's. Only three attempts are permitted every year, one in the pre-monsoon period (March - May), a second in the post-monsoon season (August - October), and a third during the winter (December - January). Permission for the Canadian attempt in the post-monsoon period of 1982 was granted in 1978 and planning has been underway ever since.

The 1982 attempt will be made by way of the Khumbu Glacier and Western Cwm (or Valley), which was the initial route followed during the first ascent of the mountain in 1953. However, the Canadian expedition will be significantly different in that it will attempt to establish a new Canadian route up Everest, by way of a direct ascent of the flanks of the South Pillar — a long ridge of rock falling steeply from the South Summit at 28,750 feet/8,765 metres into the Western Cwm. This route, if climbed successfully, will undoubtedly prove to be one of the most difficult yet achieved on this centrepiece of world mountaineering. Such an ascent would assure instant recognition for Canadian mountaineering in the international community.

Nepalese porters on the approach to Everest.

The Preparations

In the five years since Roger Marshall first received permission for a Canadian attempt on Everest, a massive organizational effort has been underway, involving literally hundreds of individuals and numerous Canadian corporations. This effort has been focussed on accumulating the 20 tons of equipment and food required to sustain the Canadian expedition members and their 25 Nepalese Sherpa porters during the projected three-month period of the climb in Nepal.

Success in this huge task will be achieved on April 16, 1982, when an Air Canada cargo charter departs from Calgary en route to Nepal, indicating the beginning of the expedition's approach to Everest. From Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, the expedition equipment will be carried on the backs of 600 local porters over the 150 miles of mountain trails to the foot of Everest, where it will be stored in the Sherpa villages of Khumjung and Pheriche. There it will remain until the main party returns to commence the climb in August.

Most important in this development has been the design and manufacture of the specialized equipment and clothing for the team, much of which does not exist in Canada at this time. Under the guidance of Equipment Manager, Jim Elzinga, special one-piece climbing suits have been developed by Sun Ice Limited of Calgary, and ultra-light, ultra-warm down equipment has been manufactured by Woods Bag & Canvas Company Limited of Toronto. Climbers Jim Elzinga and Laurie Skreslet have also cooperated with engineer, Mike Simpson, in the design of special box tents with adjustable platforms, which will permit them to be pitched on steep slopes where no ledges exist. The frames for these tents have been manufactured by Alcan Aluminium Limited of Montreal and the covers produced by Woods.

Further innovations have been made in gas-burning stoves, created by Laurie Skreslet, which can be suspended from the tent frame to prevent them from being knocked over on the uneven tent floors. And working with the valuable advice of members of the successful 1981 American Medical Research Expedition to Everest, oxygen cylinders and breathing appratus have been assembled from sources in the United States, Britain and Nepal.

In the critical area of food supplies, coordinator Lloyd Gallagher has designed six menus which must be prepacked into 40 man-day, 20 man-day and 4 man-day boxes for use at the different camps on the mountain. With five camps to be established above Base Camp at the foot of Everest and 6,500 man-days of food required for the climb, a total of 465 boxes must be prepared to carry the 9 tons of expedition food. In total, over 100 companies have been asked to supply food for the expedition.

With the expedition spending over two months in an area totally remote from modern hospital facilities, Expedition Doctors Steve Bezruchka and David Jones have also been faced with the task of accumulating comprehensive medical equipment and supplies for the climb. As part of their preparations, they are also planning to provide a complete operating capability on the mountain should some emergency develop requiring such treatment.

The task of funding this project has fallen to Expedition Manager, John Amatt, who is the principal architect of the expedition's publicity and financing program. The sole Sponsor of the expedition is Air Canada which, through the support of Director of Advertising, Mike Breckon, is providing extensive financial, transportation and communication backing for the organizers. To administer the airline's promotional program, and to coordinate the expedition's licensing program for Official Suppliers and Official Supporters, the agency of CanEverEx Inc. of Montreal has been specially created. Under Executive Director, Nevil Pike, CanEverEx is acting as the nucleus of the rapidly expanding business-related aspects of the expedition.

To bring the evolving Everest story to the Canadian public, a world broadcasting 'first', has been devised by consultant, Peter Hollidge of Advertel Productions Inc. of Toronto. Working closely with the satellite technology of Teleglobe Canada and using lightweight Hitachi video cameras on the mountain, the expedition plans to bring the climb to the television screens of Canadians during September and October of 1982. Similarly, daily radio reports will be carried across Canada, beamed direct from Kathmandu via Teleglobe Canada facilities. Finally, Bruce Patterson will accompany the expedition and will send newspaper and magazine reports to Canada for distribution by the Southam newspaper network.

The role of overall coordinator of this immense project has fallen to the two leaders of the Everest climb. Since 1978, this position was held by Dr. George Kinnear, who worked tirelessly to build the organization required to make the climb a success. Tragically, in February 1982, he was forced to resign from the team for medical reasons. At a subsequent meeting of the climbers, Bill March was appointed to take over the leadership and has since devoted himself to the task of putting the first Canadian on the summit of the world.

Many others have given freely of their time and support — Peter Spear and Gordon Smith in the contacting and packaging of food supplies (in special boxes provided by Domtar Packaging); Jay Straith in the important negotiation of legal agreements; Peter Simpson in the herculean task of maintaining the Society accounts. In February 1982, Bobby Chettri of Mountain Travel Nepal (the expedition's agent in Kathmandu) flew to Canada to review the logistical plan for the climb, and climber Al Burgess also flew in from Nepal to give the team the benefit of his vast Himalayan climbing experience. Finally, Roger Jackson, Dean of Physical Education at The University of Calgary, has continued to support the expedition by providing permanent office facilities in his Faculty.

Finally, credit must be given to the Board of Directors of the Canadian Mount Everest Society, who have overseen the development of this project from the beginning. Committed to supporting the 1982 attempt to climb Everest, but also to establishing a permanent fund from post-climb revenues for the future development of Canadian mountaineering, this group of expedition members and business executives deserves much of the credit for the impressive progress that has been made to date.

To this Board has fallen the task of ensuring that, when the main expedition party departs from Canada on July 25, 1982, in preparation for the approach to Everest and the start of the climbing on August 20th, they will be supplied with the best equipment and food that Canada has to offer. In this, they have been eminently successful. If the team succeeds in its bid to climb Everest in mid-October 1982, it will be with the Directors of this Society that much of the credit lies.

The Training Program

From the early days of organization for the 1982 Everest attempt, it has been recognized that Canadian mountaineers in general do not typically have extensive experience of climbing at high altitude. Although Canadians can boast some of the most accomplished technical climbers in the world, and some of the most arduous training environments to be found anywhere, the development of the sport of mountaineering in this country has focussed on the exploration of Canada's native mountains, rather than those overseas in foreign countries. The highest mountain in Canada — Mount Logan in the St. Elias range of the Yukon — rises to a height of 19,850 feet/6,050 metres, while peaks in the Canadian Rockies only reach the altitude of Mount Robson, the highest peak at 12,972 feet/3,954 metres.

In 1978, when permission for Everest was first granted, the highest mountain ever climbed by Canadians was **Mount Pumori (23,442 feet/7,145 metres)** in Nepal, whose summit had been reached the previous year by Ian Rowe, Lloyd Gallagher, Tim Auger and Chris Shank of the six-man expedition. As a sister peak of Everest itself, Pumori's summit offered unique views of the route up the world's highest mountain and it was perhaps this expedition, more than anything else, which pointed the way for future Canadian mountaineering in the exploration of other high-altitude peaks around the world.

The objective of the high-altitude training program, therefore, implemented for the Everest team in 1981, was the development of increased fitness levels, 'big mountain' expedition experience, and psychological confidence that could only be gained by having lived and climbed at high altitude on previous occasions. As a result of this program, which involved mounting expeditions to four minor and four major objectives in 1981, every member of the Everest climbing party reached an altitude in excess of 20,000 feet/6,096 metres, and half of the team reached 24,500 feet/7,468 metres or above. In addition, the training expeditions provided a valuable testing ground for new items of equipment and clothing, and for the important food and logistical plans that would be implemented on Everest.

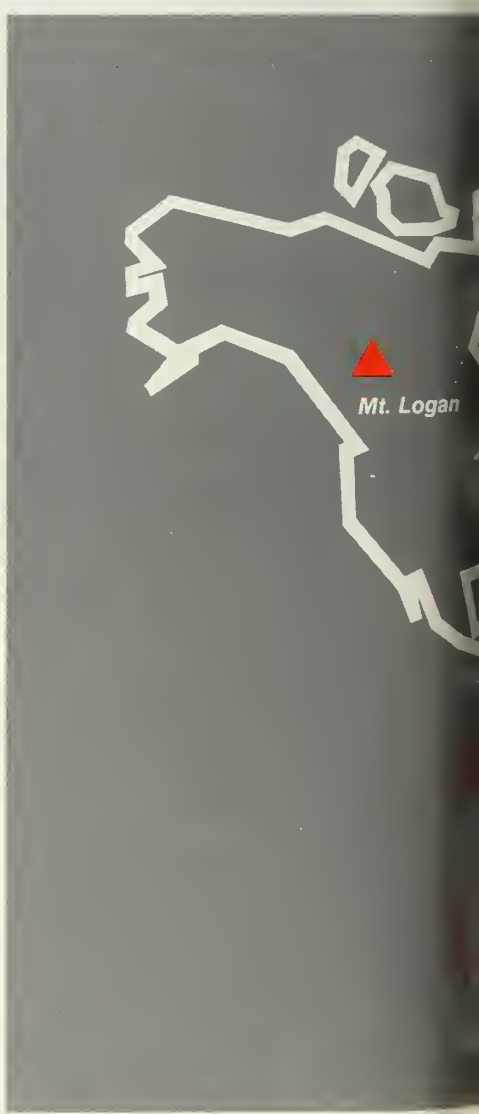
The first training expedition took place in February 1981, when Roger Marshall, Gordon Smith, Dave Read and Pat Morrow were successful in reaching the **22,834 foot/6,960 metre** summit of **Aconcagua** in Argentina — the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere. Leaving home on January 23rd, the team established Base Camp at 13,500 feet/4,115 metres after a three-day approach through semi-desert environments. The summit was reached eight days later on February 9th, from a final camp at 20,400 feet/6,218 metres by a route on the mountain's East Face. Although offering little in the way of extreme technical difficulty, Aconcagua was chosen as the best high-altitude training opportunity outside Asia.

Shortly after the Aconcagua success, team members Bill March and Rusty Baillie flew to Ecuador, where they were successful in climbing **Chimborazo, at 20,701 feet/6,310 metres** the most impressive and highest of the Ecuadorian volcanoes. First climbed in 1880 by Edward Whymper (who achieved fame for the first ascent of Switzerland's Matterhorn), Chimborazo was climbed not once by March and Baillie, but twice within ten days of leaving Canada. Operating from the Whymper Hut at 16,400 feet/5,000 metres, the first ascent was achieved via the south-west spur of the mountain, while the second climb to the summit was made by a new route (previously unclimbed) through the chaotic icefall of the Thielman Glacier and a steep ice couloir leading to the summit plateau.

In May 1981, high-altitude doctor Steve Bezruchka and climber Rusty Baillie joined a project of the Arctic Institute of North America in evacuating their research camp on **Mount Logan (19,850 feet/6,050 metres)**. To reach this camp, located on a plateau at 18,000 feet/5,486 metres, the two joined other climbers in an alpine-style climb of Logan's difficult East Ridge — a modern development in mountaineering which calls for moving continuously up the mountain, rather than sieging the mountain with fixed ropes and permanent camps. At the same time, two Everest team members, Peter Spear and Don Serl, accompanied small expeditions to climb in the Peruvian Andes, with Serl succeeding in reaching the summit of **Nevado Huascaran (22,205 feet/6,768 metres)**, Peru's highest mountain.

Also in the spring of 1981, two members of the Everest team participated in the Canadian Dhaulagiri Expedition, which was successful in climbing the world's sixth highest mountain, **Dhaulagiri I (26,810 feet/8,172 metres)** in Nepal. Although not organized under the auspices of the Canadian Mount Everest Society, the expedition to Dhaulagiri I provided invaluable experience for Jim Elzinga and Alan Burgess, the latter reaching the summit with his twin brother, Adrian. This is currently the highest mountain climbed by a Canadian expedition.

Three other major expeditions were organized by the Canadian Mount Everest Society in 1981, which resulted in the successful ascents of **Muztagata (24,757 feet/7,546 metres)** in western China and **Annapurna IV (24,688 feet/7,525 metres)** in Nepal. The third expedition to **Nuptse (25,850 feet/7,789 metres)** was unsuccessful due to extremely dangerous conditions, a rock fall in the latter stages of the climb actually burying a camp under 30 feet of debris. A fourth expedition was successful in climbing **Gangapurna (24,457 feet/7,454 metres)** in Nepal. Although organized

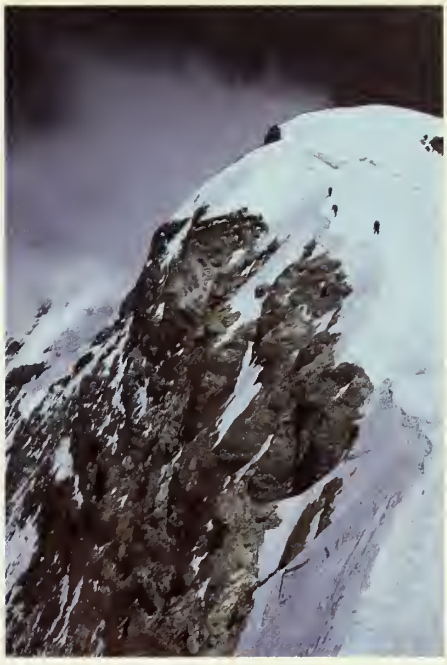


independently of the Everest Society, all members of this team subsequently joined the Everest climbing team.

Descriptions of these four major expeditions appear in more detail on the following pages.

In reviewing the achievements of the Everest team members during 1981, it is significant that each training expedition was successful in reaching the summit of its objective, with the exception of the Nuptse attempt. And this latter climb was only forced off the mountain by a severe rock fall that obliterated the Advance Base Camp, totally burying important equipment beyond retrieval. Such accomplishments would appear to augur well for the Everest attempt to come.

Rusty Baillie on the East Ridge of Logan.



The summit ridge of Aconcagua.

Gangapurna

The Canadian Gangapurna Expedition was conceived in October 1980 by John Lauchlan, who pursuaded James Blench, Dave McNab and Dwayne Congdon to join him on a lightweight attempt to climb the South Face of Gangapurna, a 24,457 foot/7,454 metre peak located in the Annapurna Sanctuary of the Nepal Himalaya. At that time, the South Face was unclimbed and had, in fact, never been attempted, although the peak itself had received two successful ascents by way of the relatively easy East Ridge.

The group which assembled in Kathmandu in mid-March 1981 was described by James Blench as resembling . . . "more a carnival than a climbing expedition" . . . including as it did 49 porters, 5 Nepalese support staff (liaison officer, sirdar/manager, cook and assistant, mail runner), 4 climbers, Mary Lauchlan, and Josie and Janice Gray. Departing from nearby Pokhara on March 17th, the group trekked for 7 days through small villages until they reached an impass at 11,500 feet/3,500 metres. Here, the porters deserted the team when faced with trudging barefoot through knee-deep snow with 30 kilos on their backs — and the Canadian team members commenced a "memorable" 5 days of humping 200 kilos of food and gear over the final 8 kilometres to Gangapurna Base Camp at 13,450 feet/4,100 metres.

With Base Camp established, the actual work of climbing the mountain began. James Blench described his feelings in a subsequent article . . . "For me, it became the monotony of ferrying loads up to the glacier, through icefalls and gullies, trying to stock enough gear high on the mountain to attempt the south face. Bottomless snow, the scorching equatorial sun, and the arduous process of acclimatizing more than once had me frustrated to the verge of dropping the expedition."

"The true South Face begins at approximately 19,685 feet/6,000 metres, and is characterized by a 2,150 foot/650 metre ice face. Following this are 1,640 feet/500 metres of mixed snow, rock and ice climbing, with the occasional steep step. The remainder of the route is an easy (non-technical, though I would hardly say that any movement at 23,000 feet/7,000 plus metres is easy) snow slope. The climb was accomplished with a minimum of permanent camps or bivouac sites, without employing Sherpa porters, or safeguarding large sections of the route with fixed ropes."

Dwayne Congdon climbing on the South Face of Gangapurna.

"On April 25th, the four of us survived a terribly fatiguing, stormbound bivouac. We spent the night on a tiny ledge on a 55 degree ice face in a two-person tent. Making brews all night, trying to stave off frostbite by keeping up our fluid intake, we had little energy the next morning, and it was all we could do to move the 100 metres to a good bivouac site. At this point, Dave McNab began displaying symptoms of altitude sickness . . . we all became worried."

"By the morning of April 27th, I had made the decision to descend with Dave, wanting to play it safe and thinking I had given the route my best effort. Later that morning, it became apparent that Dwayne also had the manifestations of altitude illness we hadn't noticed before. It would be foolish for him to continue the ascent with John. Dave and Dwayne had to go lower if they were to recuperate."

"Reluctantly, I decided to accompany John. The others began their tedious descent, leaving the bulk of food and fuel for John and I. Resolving myself to what lay ahead, fueled more by my partner's motivation than my own resources, we continued on. Three days later, the two of us stood on Gangapurna's summit."

Behind these simple words, lies a wealth of achievement. This was the first time that a group of Canadian mountaineers had climbed a new route in the Himalayas, on a route that was very difficult and with the bare minimum of resources. And this was achieved by four young men on their first visit to the high Himalayan mountains — surely an achievement that must pave the way for Canadian expeditions of the future.

Muztagata

Muztagata (24,757 feet/7,546 metres) in the Xinjiang region of western China.

The Canadian Muztagata Expedition 1981 was organized under the auspices of the Canadian Mount Everest Society with two objectives in mind: firstly, to make the ascent of Muztagata (24,757 feet/7,546 metres) in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of Western China, and secondly, to initiate contact with Chinese mountaineers and to open up the doors for other Canadian groups wishing to climb in China in the future. The expedition was successful in both areas. The mountain was successfully climbed on September 16th and, as the first Canadian mountaineering party ever to climb in China, the expedition was able to hold meaningful discussions with officials of the Chinese Mountaineering Association (CMA) which should lead to much fruitful cooperation in the future.

Leader of the 4-man expedition was John Amatt, who had visited Beijing (Peking) in person in May 1981 to negotiate the permission for the climb. Other members were Lloyd Gallagher, Pat Morrow and Dr. Stephen Bezruchka. The expedition was accompanied by Peggy Amatt and Fran Gallagher, who returned directly after having reached the foot of the mountain on September 3rd. The Liaison Officer assigned to the expedition by the CMA was Song Zhi-Yi and the Interpreter who accompanied the expedition from Urumchi was Tien Sheny-Yuan.

The expedition left Canada on August 24th, flying by way of Los Angeles and Tokyo to Beijing, where they arrived on August 26th. After several days in Beijing, during which final arrangements for the expedition were concluded, the party flew west to Urumchi and finally Kashgar, arriving on August 31st. On September 2nd, the expedition left Kashgar by rented bus for the 200 km drive to the village of Subashi at the foot of Muztagata, arriving 12 hours later as darkness was beginning to fall. A camp was established at the upper end of the valley at 12,600 feet/3,840 metres.

After two days of acclimatization and reconnaisance, arrangements were made for 10 camels and 3 camel drivers to arrive from Subashi, and the entire expedition was moved up to Base Camp at 14,300 feet/4,360 metres on September 5th. The following day, three camels were retained to carry the equipment further up the mountain and that afternoon, Camp I was established at 17,225 feet/5,250 metres. After further carries by the climbers, this camp was occupied permanently on September 8th.

From Camp I, the entire mountain was ascended on skis. The first ski ascent of Muztagata had been achieved by the American Friendship Expedition the previous year, who were successful in establishing the mountain as the highest to have been both ascended and descended entirely on skis. The Canadian Muztagata Expedition was to duplicate this feat, but by a different route.

On September 9th, a dump of equipment was established in a whiteout at 18,500 feet/5,640 metres, followed by an exciting descent to Camp I in a developing storm. Two days later, the storm abated, and Steve and Pat descended to Base Camp for more food, while Lloyd and John broke trail through the new snow to the site of Camp II at 18,635 feet/5,680 metres. The weather was extremely warm, and the previous day's snowfall had created significant avalanche hazard.

On September 12th, all four climbers left Camp I with five days food and one tent, intending to move continuously over the remaining 7,500 feet/2,286 metres until the summit was reached. That night, Camp II was occupied and the following day, Camp III established at 20,650 feet/6,295 metres. On September 14th, Camp IV was established at 22,000 feet/6,705 metres, where everyone suffered greatly from the altitude with severe headaches and dizziness. Despite the excellent weather, therefore, a rest day was declared on September 15th, leaving September 16th as the day the summit bid would be mounted. After an early start in the freezing cold (-30°C), the summit was reached by Pat, Steve and Lloyd at 4 p.m., John having retreated in mid-morning, suffering from sickness and the onset of frostbite. The following day, everyone skied down to Camp I, with Base Camp being reached on September 18th.

The ascent of Muztagata, completed entirely on skis from 17,225 feet/5,250 metres to the summit at 24,757 feet/7,546 metres, was one of the fastest that has ever been achieved of a summit of equivalent height. After leaving the valley on September 5th, the summit was reached only 11 days later. In comparison, the American expedition in 1980 covered the same ground in 12 days.

During the return journey to Canada, the expedition was treated to celebration banquets by CMA officials in each city, with the final banquet being in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. On that occasion, the climbers were able to discuss future cooperation between mountaineers of Canada and China. There can be little doubt that this first expedition to Muztagata has left a legacy of friendship in China, which will pave the way for future Canadian expeditions to that country.

Nuptse

The South Face of Nuptse (25,850 feet/7,789 metres).

Nuptse, or the West Peak, is the third peak of the Everest massif in the Khumbu region of Nepal. Rising to 25,850 feet/7,789 metres, it boasts an impressive South Face, which has only been successfully climbed on one previous occasion — by a British party in the spring climbing season of 1961. Its location in the Everest region, and a climbing season in the fall of 1981 which coincided exactly with the allotted season for the Everest attempt the following year, led to its choice as a training peak by the Canadian Mount Everest Society.

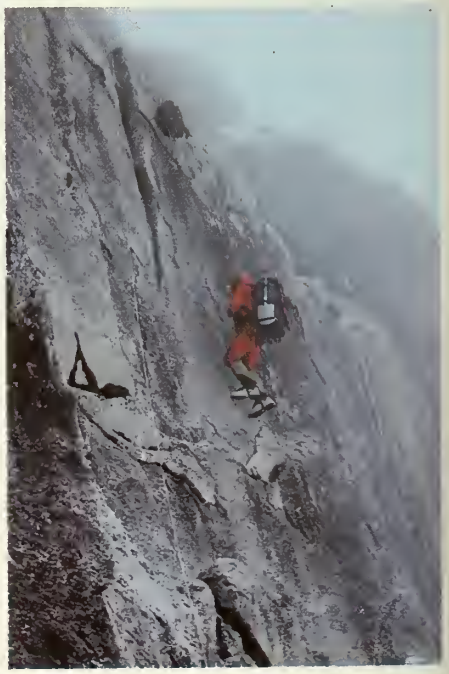
Leaving Canada on August 7th, the expedition was led by Jim Elzinga, and included Bill March (Deputy Leader), Rusty Baillie, Dwayne Congdon, John Lauchlan, Dave McNab and Laurie Skreslet. After a week in Kathmandu organizing porters and packing equipment, the team hired a bus and drove to Lamosangu at the start of the trek into the Everest region. From this point, the route was all on foot, traversing from west to east across the grain of the countryside which is characterized by numerous river valleys running north-south off the Himalayan watershed. After 13 days of walking, with 62 local porters carrying the expedition equipment and food, the team reached Namche Bazaar, where yaks were hired to ferry the supplies up to Base Camp at 17,000 feet/5,180 metres below the South Face of Nuptse.

At this stage, the weather was cloudy and cool, with the intended route on the mountain totally obscured from observation. After five days, when the skies finally cleared, the South Face revealed itself as an unstable, avalanche-prone, serac-threatened route that offered an unacceptable level of objective danger. After considerable discussion, all team members were unanimous in rejecting this route. The team then reconnoitred a new line to the left of the central spur, following an obvious Z-feature to the summit, but this too was later rejected as unjustifiably dangerous. Consequently, the team finally selected the South Buttress for their attempt — a blunt ridge which rose to join the unclimbed West Ridge of Nuptse at 21,500 feet/6,550 metres.

After placing a radio call to Kathmandu, the Nepalese authorities granted conditional permission for this route, and an Advanced Base Camp was rapidly established at 18,000 feet/5,486 metres. In a very short period of intense activity, over 4,000 feet/1,220 metres of rope were fixed to the mountain and Camp I was established just below 20,000 feet/6,095 metres. Further supplies were carried up and a dump established in preparation for setting up Camp II on the West Ridge, slightly below the crest at 21,500 feet/6,550 metres. The climbing to this point was mixed, with exposed ridges, vertical patches of fragile snow mushrooms, difficult technical rock climbing and short steep steps of perfect granite.

After all this activity, a fierce storm hit the mountain, dumping heavy snow and forcing the team down to Base Camp. During the descend, a short halt was called at the Advanced Base Camp site, with some discussion of the possibility of sitting out the storm at this point. But the deep snow and high winds dictated prudence, and the team continued downwards. The next day, the weather cleared, and expedition members climbed once again to Advanced Base, finding that it had been totally buried under 30 feet/9 metres of rock and rubble. This had fallen during the previous night and covered an area of over two kilometres extending from the foot of the face. Vital supplies were buried beyond recovery and the expedition was forced to abandon its attempt on October 4th.

Despite the unfortunate failure of the climb, important lessons were learned during this expedition which will be of great benefit to the Everest attempt in the fall of 1982. Upon the return of the Nuptse expedition to Canada in mid-October, significant changes were made in the logistical plan for Everest, which should enhance the chances of success on the higher peak. Although the summit of Nuptse was not achieved, the expedition has to be viewed as successful, both in terms of the learning that was achieved on the mountain and in terms of the experienced gained of extreme climbing at altitude by all members of the team. In addition, Jim Elzinga was able to visit the American expedition to nearby Everest and purchase from them oxygen and other important equipment, which is now in storage in Nepal for future use.



Climbing fixed ropes on Nuptse.

Annapurna IV

At the end of October 1981, the 1981 Canadian Winter Annapurna IV Expedition left Canada bound for Kathmandu, Nepal, to attempt to make the first winter ascent of Annapurna IV (24,688 feet/7,525 metres) via the north-west buttress. The team was led by Gordon Smith, and consisted of Roger Marshall, twins Alan and Adrian Burgess, Carl Hannigan, Steve Langley, Don Serl and Jay Straith.

Leaving Kathmandu on November 6, 1981, with 5 Sherpa porters, 1 government liaison officer, and 105 local porters to carry the 3,000 kilos of food and equipment, the expedition travelled in two buses to the small town of Dumre, a distance of only 120 kms, but taking most of one day to cover. The Marsyangdi Khola valley was then followed for 7 days to the town of Chame (8,900 feet/2,713 metres), where shelter was taken for three days during an unseasonally-early winter storm. At this point, 75 of the local porters left, not relishing the thought of wading through wet snow in bare feet and clad only in a blanket. Eventually, the equipment was moved up the Base Camp valley using yaks and the few hardy porters who had remained. On November 23rd, Base Camp was occupied at 15,300 feet/4,660 metres and the rest of the month spent tramping out a trail across the glacier to the foot of the north-west buttress.

December 1st saw the start of the official winter climbing season in Nepal, and hectic activity on the lower part of the mountain. Camp I (18,300 feet/5,578 metres) was occupied by the Burgess twins on December 3rd, and Camp II (19,750 feet/6,020 metres) on December 6th by Marshall and Smith. A snowstorm the following day forestalled the digging of a permanent ice-cave at this site. Eventually, the gale force wind blew away the Camp II tent and a decision was reached not to use any further tents during the climb. From this point, all camps were located in ice-caves dug into the mountainside. Finally, on December 12th and 13th, the cave at Camp II was completed and ready for use.

During the next week, the twins, Marshall and Langley established, Camp III at 21,050 feet/6,416 metres, while Smith, Hannigan, Serl, Straith and the two Sherpas stocked all the ice-caves with food and equipment ready for an attempt to reach the summit. Finally, on December 22nd (the shortest day of the year), Al and Ade Burgess and Roger Marshall reached the summit of Annapurna IV, climbing an incredible 3,638 feet/1,109 metres vertical height in a single day from Camp III. The whole trip up and down from the top ice-cave was accomplished in daylight, despite wind gusts up to 100 kmph and a Camp III starting temperature of -30° C.

A second summit bid on December 26th, by Smith, Langley and the Sherpa Sirdar was abandoned shortly below the summit due to increasingly severe winds. All the camps were cleared on the descent and Base Camp evacuated on December 28th. By January 2, 1982, all the team was back in Kathmandu, having climbed the highest mountain in the world to date during the official Nepalese winter climbing season of December - January. This does not, of course, include the Polish winter ascent of Everest which was accomplished in February 1980, and is unrecognized in Nepal.

Returning from the summit of Annapurna IV.

Everest Expedition Team

Bill March
Leader

Lloyd Gallagher
Deputy Leader

John Amatt
Climber

Rusty Baillie
Climber

James Blench
Climber

Al Burgess
Climber

Dwayne Congdon
Climber

Jim Elzinga
Climber

Dave McNab
Climber

Pat Morrow
Climber

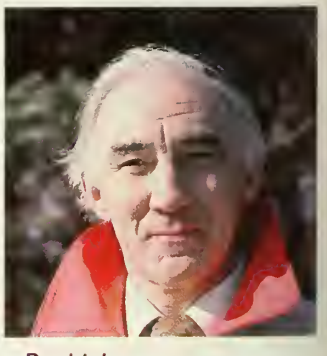
Dave Read
Climber

Don Serl
Climber

Gordon Smith
Climber

Peter Spear
Camp Manager

Kurt Fuhrich
Base Camp Cook



David Jones
Base Camp Doctor

Biographical Information

Stephen Bezruchka
High-Altitude Doctor

Roger Marshall
Climber

Laurie Skreslet
Climber

Bruce Patterson
Journalist

Bill March
(Expedition Leader)

Aged 40, married with one child, living in Calgary, Alberta. Coordinator of the Outdoor Pursuits Program, Faculty of Physical Education, The University of Calgary, and an instructor in mountaineering.

Bill has been a member of three expeditions to Nepal, including the 1974 expedition to **Dhaulagiri IV** (25,135 feet/7,661 metres), the 1979 expedition to **Mt. Mera** (21,300 feet/6,492 metres) and was the Deputy Leader of the 1981 expedition to **Nuptse** (25,850 feet/7,789 metres). In the Americas, he has climbed **Chimborazo** (20,701 feet/6,310 metres) and **Cotopaxi** (19,347 feet/5,897 metres) in Ecuador, and **Popocatepetl** (17,600 feet/5,364 metres) and **Ixticcihuatl** (17,400 feet/5,303 metres) in Mexico. In Canada, he has climbed some of the most difficult winter ice climbs, including **Slipstream** on Snow Dome, and **Polar Circus** on Cirrus Mountain. Bill has two books on mountaineering, and numerous articles in print, and is a member of the International Association of Mountain Guides (UIAGM).

Lloyd 'Kiwi' Gallagher
(Deputy Leader)

Aged 42, married with two children, living in Canmore, Alberta. Alpine Specialist for Kananaskis Provincial Park (Province of Alberta), with special responsibility for mountain rescue and public safety programs.

Lloyd's major ascents include **Nevado Yerupaja** (21,759 feet/6,632 metres) in Peru (1968), **Mount Logan** (19,850 feet/6,050 metres) in the Canadian Yukon (1970), **Pumori** (23,442 feet/7,145 metres) in Nepal (1977) and **Muztagata** (24,757 feet/7,546 metres) in China. He has also taken part in expeditions to northern Greenland and the Patagonia Region of South America. He is a member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG), the International Association of Mountain Guides (UIAGM) and has enjoyed an extensive 12-year career as heli-skiing and climbing guide for Canadian Mountain Holidays of Banff, Alberta.

John Amatt
(Climber)

Aged 36, married with one child, living in Canmore, Alberta. Consulting Associate with The Banff Centre School of Management and Program Director for Banff Wilderness Seminars for business executives.

Major first ascents include the vertical **Troll Wall** (1965) and the difficult **North Face of Sondre Trolltind** (1967), both in Norway. In 1966, he climbed **Nevado Alpamayo** (19,512 feet/5,947 metres) in Peru. John has led expeditions to Arctic Norway (1964), Baffin Island (1974, 1975, 1976) and Mexico (1980), where he climbed **Orizaba** (18,880 feet/5,755 metres) — the third highest peak in North America. He was an organizer of the 1971 International Mount Everest Expedition and, in 1981, was Leader of Canada's first expedition to China, which climbed **Muztagata** (24,757 feet/7,546 metres) in the Xinjiang region. He is the founder and Chairman of the Banff Festival of Mountain Films, a member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG), and is a freelance photographer, lecturer and consultant, specializing in mountain environments.

Rusty Baillie
(Climber)

Aged 41, married with two children, living in Calgary, Alberta. Instructor of Outdoor Pursuits, Faculty of Physical Education, The University of Calgary, and a specialist in outdoor leadership.

Rusty has climbed some of the hardest alpine routes in Europe, including the **North Face of the Eiger** (Switzerland), the **Brouillard Pillar of Mont Blanc** (France), and the **North Face of Sondre Trolltind** (Norway). Other ascents include **Mount Kenya** (17,040 feet/5,194 metres) and **Kilimanjaro** (19,340 feet/5,895 metres) in Africa; **Cotopaxi** (19,347 feet/5,897 metres) and **Chimborazo** (20,701 feet/6,310 metres) in Ecuador; and **Orizaba** (18,880 feet/5,755 metres) in Mexico. In 1981, he climbed the difficult **East Ridge of Mt. Logan** (19,850 feet/6,050 metres) and was a member of the expedition to **Nuptse** (25,850 feet/7,789 metres) in Nepal. He is a member of the International Association of Mountain Guides (UIAGM) and is involved in research into mental training for high-altitude mountaineering.

Stephen Bezruchka
(High-Altitude Doctor)

Aged 38, married, living in Seattle, Washington. Doctor in private practice.

Steve was a member of the Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition (1967) and the expedition to **Tirich Mir** (25,260 feet/7,699 metres) in Pakistan (1980). In 1981, he climbed the difficult **East Ridge of Mt. Logan** (19,850 feet/6,050 metres) and **Muztagata** (24,757 feet/7,546 metres) in western China. He worked as Medical Director of the Dhorpatan Health Project in Nepal from 1974-76 and is fluent in Nepali. Steve is the author of the highly-respected "A Guide to Trekking in Nepal", published in 1972.

James Blench
(Climber)

Aged 26, single, living in Canmore, Alberta. Mountaineering Instructor for the Yamnuska Centre, operated by the Rocky Mountain Y.M.C.A. in Calgary, Alberta.

James is one of the leading young Canadian mountaineers and has made ascents of most of the hardest winter ice climbs in Canada. His most notable first ascents include **"Weeping Pillar"** on Cirrus Mountain (1980), the **East Face of Snowdome** (1981) and the **Mt. Deltaform "Super Couloir"** (1980). In the spring of 1981, he made the first ascent of the **South Face of Gangapurna** (24,457 feet/7,454 metres) in Nepal.

Al Burgess
(Climber)

Aged 33, single, living in Kathmandu, Nepal. Carpenter and professional mountaineer.

One of the most prolific high-altitude climbers in Canada. Al's record of Himalayan expeditions includes the ascent of **Dhaulagiri I** (26,810 feet/8,172 metres), the sixth highest mountain in the world, and the first winter ascent of **Annapurna IV** (24,688 feet/7,525 metres), both in 1981. In 1980, he participated in unsuccessful expeditions to **Everest** (29,028 feet/8,848 metres) in winter and to **Nanga Parbat** (26,660 feet/8,126 metres). He has also climbed many of the hardest routes in the European Alps and, in 1975, he made the first ascent of **Polar Circus** one of the most serious winter ice climbs in the Canadian Rockies.

Dwayne Congdon
(Climber)

Aged 25, single, living in Invermere, British Columbia. Mountaineering Instructor and Professional Ski Patroller.

In 1981, Dwayne was a member of two major Himalayan expeditions to Nepal — to **Gangapurna** (24,457 feet/7,454 metres) and to **Nuptse** (25,850 feet/7,789 metres). His ascents include **Orizaba** (18,880 feet/5,755 metres) in Mexico and the North Faces of **Les Droites** and the **Grande Jorasses** in the French Alps. He has an impressive record of major ascents in the Canadian Rockies, including the **North Face of Temple**, the **North-East Face of Snowdome**, and **Mt. Deltaform "Super Couloir"**.

Jim Elzinga
(Climber)

Aged 27, married, living in Calgary, Alberta. A professional photographer and film cameraman.

In 1979, Jim was a member of the expedition which made the first ascent of the **South-West Buttress of Mt. Logan** (19,850 feet/6,050 metres), and in 1981 participated in the Canadian expeditions to **Dhaulagiri I** (26,810 feet/8,172 metres) and **Nuptse** (25,850 feet/7,789 metres), both in Nepal. In Canada, he has taken part in many difficult climbs, including the first ascents on the **North Face of Temple**, the **North Face Direct of Deltaform**, the **North Face of Diadem**, and the first winter ascents of the **North Face of Kitchener**, the **East Face of Snowdome** (Slipstream), and the **North Face of Cromwell**. Jim was the climbing cameraman for the award-winning film, "Challenge — The Canadian Rockies".

Roger Marshall
(Climber)

Aged 40 years, married with two children, living in Golden, British Columbia. A private contractor, businessman, and former journalist.

In December 1981, Roger was a member of the three-man team which reached the summit of **Annapurna IV** (24,688 feet/7,525 metres), thereby making the first winter ascent. This is the highest mountain climbed in Nepal during the official winter season of December and January. His other major ascents include **Aconcagua** (22,800 feet/6,949 metres) in Argentina, and a new route on the **South Face of Mount McKinley** (20,320 feet/6,193 metres) in Alaska. These are the highest mountains in South and North America respectively. He has also gained considerable alpine climbing experience in the European Alps.

Dave McNab
(Climber)

Aged 26 years, single, living in Invermere, British Columbia. Mountaineering/Skiing Instructor and Professional Ski Patroller.

Dave took part in two Himalayan expeditions in 1981, in the spring to **Gangapurna** (24,457 feet/7,454 metres) and in the fall to **Nuptse** (25,850 feet/7,789 metres). Previously, he had achieved an outstanding record of difficult ascents in the Canadian Rockies, including ascents of the **North Face of Kitchener**, the **North Face of Mt. Temple**, and the **North-East Face of Snowdome**.

Pat Morrow
(Climber)

Aged 29 years, single, living in Kimberley, British Columbia. Professional freelance photographer, specializing in wilderness and outdoor subjects for books and magazines.

Pat has a very extensive ski touring and mountaineering background, having completed a ski ascent of **Muztagata** (24,757 feet/7,546 metres) in western China (1981) and a ski circumnavigation of Canada's highest peak — Mount Logan. His other major ascents include **Mount McKinley** (20,320 feet/6,193 metres) in Alaska, and **Aconcagua** (22,800 feet/6,949 metres) in Argentina. In addition, his adventures include an amphibious descent of Barranca del Cobre in the Sierra Madre mountains of Mexico.

Dave Read
(Climber)

Aged 33 years, single, living in Calgary, Alberta. Millwright.

Dave has climbed all over the world, and has achieved major ascents in Europe, the United States, Japan, New Zealand, Alaska and South America. He has reached the summit of **Mount McKinley** (20,320 feet/6,193 metres) in Alaska — the highest mountain in North America, and of **Aconcagua** (22,800 feet/6,949 metres) in Argentina — the highest mountain in South America. He also has many long distance ocean journeys to his credit.

Don Serl
(Climber)

Aged 34 years, married, living in Vancouver, British Columbia. Buyer for a Mountaineering and Skiing Equipment store.

He has made many expeditions into the Coast Range mountains of British Columbia and in 1978, climbed **Mount McKinley** (20,320 feet/6,193 metres) in Alaska. In 1981, he climbed in the Peruvian Andes, reaching the summits of **Nevado Huascaran** (22,205 feet/6,768 metres) and **Ranrapallka** (20,217 feet/6,162 metres). More recently, he took part in the successful winter expedition to **Annapurna IV** in Nepal, reaching an altitude of 21,050 feet/6,500 metres.

Laurie Skreslet
(Climber)

Aged 32, single, living in Calgary, Alberta. Freelance mountain guide and climbing instructor.

A leading figure in Canadian ice climbing for the past 12 years with many notable first ascents to his credit, including **Helmut Falls, Orion Falls, Whiteman Falls,** (all in winter) and a new route on the **North Face of Mt. Fay.** In 1971, Laurie was the Leader of a Canadian-American expedition which climbed **Nevado Huascaran** (22,205 feet/6,768 metres) and has since climbed **Nevado Chopikalki** (20,817 feet/6,345 metres) and **Nevado Kayesh** (18,770 feet/5,721 metres), all in Peru. He was a member of the 1981 expedition to **Nuptse** (25,850 feet/7,789 metres) in Nepal and another to **Aconcagua** (22,800 feet/6,949 metres) in Argentina. He is a member of the Association of Canadian Mountain Guides (ACMG).

Gordon Smith
(Climber)

Aged 36, married, living in Golden, British Columbia. Mechanical engineer and businessman.

Gordon was the Leader of the Canadian expedition which made the first winter ascent of **Annapurna IV** (24,688 feet/7,525 metres) in Nepal in December 1981. He has climbed **Aconcagua** (22,800 feet/6,949 metres) in Argentina (spring 1981) and was a member of a 1974 expedition which climbed a new route on **Pik Lenin** (23,406 feet/7,134 metres) in the Russian Pamir mountains. He has an extensive background of difficult alpine climbing in the European Alps.

Peter Spear
(Camp Manager)

Aged 41, married with two children, living in Calgary, Alberta. Teacher and administrator with the Calgary Board of Education.

Peter has led two expeditions to the Cordillera Blanca in Peru, resulting in the ascents of **Nevado Huascaran Sur** (22,205 feet/6,768 metres). **Nevado Pisco** (18,898 feet/5,760 metres), **Akilpo Sur** (18,242 feet/5,520 metres) and **Nevado Paqtsasuri** (17,471 feet/5,325 metres). He was involved with the 1967 Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition, as an organizer and leader of the Mt. New Brunswick team. He has climbed all the 12,000 foot peaks in the Canadian Rockies (**Robson, Columbia, North Twin, Clemenceau**) and 14 other summits over 11,000 feet in the same range. Peter is also a member of the Canadian Ski Patrol System (since 1963) and is formerly the National Avalanche Training Officer for the system.

Kurt Fuhrich
(Base Camp Cook)

Aged 33, single, living in Banff, Alberta. Chef and restaurant owner.

He has travelled extensively in Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Ceylon, Sikkim, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Japan) and made ascents of **Mt. Kota Kinabalu** (13,455 feet/4,101 metres) in Borneo and **Mt. Damavand** (18,386 feet/5,604 metres) in Iran. Kurt has extensive background and training as a cook, including that as Chef to the Shah of Iran at his private casino in Ramsar, for the 1972 Olympic Games, and at an oil drilling camp on Melville Island, 600 miles south of the North Pole.

David Jones
(Base Camp Doctor)

Aged 50, married, living in Calgary, Alberta. Physician on leave as Medical Superintendent, Esso Standard, Lybia.

Dave has participated as a doctor and camp manager for the joint British-Nepalese Army Expedition to the North Face of **Annapurna I** (26,546 feet/8,091 metres) in Nepal (1970) His other expedition experience includes visits to Iceland (1962) and the East Coast of Greenland (1960/63), the 1960 expedition being under the leadership of Lord Hunt (Leader of the 1953 first ascent of Mount Everest). He was a member of the British Antarctic Survey from 1957-59 and has 34 years of mountaineering experience, including a period with the Royal Air Force mountain rescue team in Britain.

Bruce Patterson
(Journalist)

Aged 32, single, living in Canmore, Alberta. Banff Bureau Chief for The Calgary Herald newspaper.

Bruce has ten years experience as a newspaper and magazine journalist in Oakville, Ontario, and in Calgary, Alberta. He has climbed **Cotopaxi** (19,437 feet/5,897 metres) in Ecuador, and **Kala Pattar** (18,449 feet/5,623 metres) above Everest Base Camp in Nepal.

List of Supporters

Sponsor

The sole Sponsor of The 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition is **Air Canada**, which is providing the expedition with extensive financial, transportation, communication and organizational support. The Canadian Mount Everest Society would like to record its appreciation to Air Canada for displaying the leadership and initiative in supporting this unique Canadian venture.

Governments

In 1981, the **Government of the Province of Alberta** provided a "seed" funding grant to the Canadian Mount Everest Society in preparation for its attempt to climb Mount Everest in the fall of 1982. Such support, offered at an early stage of organization of this venture, was greatly appreciated by all concerned and did much to improve the credibility of the undertaking.

Companies

The following companies provided valuable financial and material support for the 1981 series of training expeditions described in this report. Without their support, many of these climbs would not have taken place and the preparations for the Everest expedition would not be as advanced as they are today.

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Individuals

Many hundreds of individuals have contributed to the successes described in this report. The following are a few who made generous financial contributions to the Canadian Mount Everest Society in 1981. Our sincere thanks are due to them, and to the countless others too numerous to list here.

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Calgary, Alberta

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In February 1982, one of Canada's leading mountaineers, John Lauchlan, 27, was killed by an avalanche while attempting a solo ascent of Polar Circus, a 500-metre frozen waterfall on the west face of Cirrus mountain near the Columbia Icefields in Banff National Park.

John, originally a member of The 1982 Canadian Mount Everest Expedition, was a pioneer in setting new climbing standards both nationally and internationally. In 1978, he made the first winter ascent of the 1,300 metre North Face of Mount Kitchener in Jasper National Park with Jim Elzinga. A year later, John and three others made a 16-day alpine style ascent of the highly-prized unclimbed southwest buttress of Mount Logan (19,520 feet/5,950 metres), Canada's highest peak.

In the summer of 1980, he represented Canada with Dwayne Congdon at the Rassemblement Internationale, a bi-yearly event held in Chamonix, France, which attracts the best climbers from each country. With Dwayne, he succeeded in making the third ascent of the MacIntyre/Colton route on the North Face of the Grande Jorasses, a climb that had defeated many of Europe's top alpinists. John then went on to solo the Gabbarou Couloir on Mont Blanc du Tacul. His most impressive solo climb in Canada was the ascent of Takakkaw Falls, a 300-metre wall of ice in Yoho National Park. In the spring of 1981, John also led the four-man expedition to Gangapurna, which established a new route on this 24,457 foot/7,454 metre Himalayan peak.

Climbing was not just a sport for John, it was a way of living his life to its fullest; it provided a way of understanding and coming to terms with himself. He was constantly testing himself, pushing a little harder on that fine edge that separates success from failure; coming closer to realizing his full potential. John was once quoted as saying . . . "In climbing, I voluntarily take myself out of the safety of society. You take complete responsibility for your actions. Everything I do, I am totally accountable for . . . with my life. So I have to be right; not just right or nearly right, but impeccably right. That frees me from society's constraints and allows me to react, and act, as humans are meant to react, act, and live."

John's death is a tremendous loss for Canadian mountaineering. A memorial fund in his name has been established by the Canadian Mount Everest Society to aid in the development of young mountaineers in Canada.

EVEREST 82

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